

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 81

FRIDAY MARCH 21, 2008

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Have you already
signed the petition
supporting the
construction of a
football field
complex on Saipan?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE



War Protests

Protesters blocked traffic and government buildings in Washington to mark the fifth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

NATION...Page 22

Osama Video

Osama bin Laden condemned the publication of drawings that he said insulted the Prophet Muhammad and warned Europeans of a "severe" reaction to come.

WORLD...Page 25



Records Released

Hillary Clinton was home in the White House on at least seven days when her husband had encounters there with Monica Lewinsky.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 29

Tudela suspends public services indefinitely. PAGE 2

'Budget shortfall is estimated at \$14.5M' PAGE 3

'Assurances not good enough'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Fitial administration yesterday termed as misplaced the statement made by the spokesman of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee that the bill that seeks to federalize the CNMI's immigration system is sensitive to the concerns of the CNMI and its people.



Reyes

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes said that what Bill Wicker laid out were mere assurances and nothing concrete that would give the islands any confidence

in the legislation's ability to accommodate the CNMI's legitimate economic needs, namely its need for labor, investors, students, tourists, and customers.

"The assurances cited by Mr. Wicker have no legal significance with respect to the duties assigned to the federal agencies

See ASSURANCES on Page 4

Knight: S.2739 is vague at best

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The chair of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands describes S.2739 as "vague at best and ambiguous in many parts."

Reacting to Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee spokesman Bill Wicker's statement that

the bill is sensitive to needs of the Commonwealth and its people, HANMI chair Lynn A. Knight stopped short of saying that the bill is all for show.



Knight

"It has some flowery wording that is designed to assure us that the bill would take care of our economic interests, but there is absolutely no substance to that

See KNIGHT on Page 4

4 cops are grounded—Norita

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four police officers were grounded effective yesterday due to various issues, according to Department of Public Safety Commissioner Claudio K. Norita.

Norita disclosed that these police officers were involved in

traffic accidents, alleged non-payment of bar bills, and so forth.

Being grounded means that these officers are assigned to non-sensitive assignments such as dispatchers or administrative work, he said.

Norita said the grounded officers are prohibited from work—

See 4 COPS on Page 4

Gene may help explain stress disorder

By LINDSEY TANNER
AP MEDICAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—Ground-breaking research suggests genes help explain why some people can recover from a traumatic event while others suffer

post-traumatic stress disorder. Though preliminary, the study provides insight into a condition expected to strike increasing numbers of military veterans returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, one health expert said.

See GENE on Page 4

ON THE NET

JAMA: <http://jama.ama-assn.org>

PTSD: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/post-traumatic-stress-disorder-ptsd>



WESPAC MEETING

Council members and participants gather at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa in Garapan for the 140th meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council Thursday. The meeting continues today.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Local



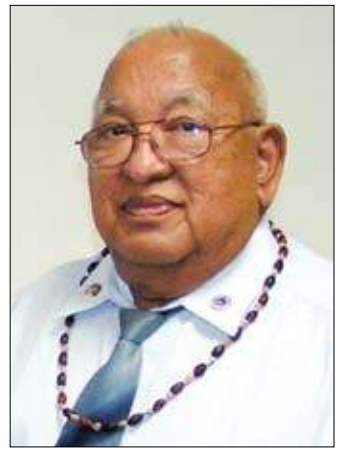
WESPAC MEETING

Council members listen to the speaker during the 140th meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council at the Hibiscus hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa in Garapan Thursday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Tudela suspends public services 'indefinitely'

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Tudela

Effective this week, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela drastically reduced the delivery of public services due to the difficulty of buying enough fuel for his office's vehicles.

Public services affected include all water truck deliveries, all quarry operations and coral deliveries, all road repairs, junk car removal, site preparations for wakes and funerals, village cleanups, and beautification projects.

According to the Saipan Mayor's Office, funds are available in the office's account but payments cannot be made separately. Payments are now consolidated, which makes it even difficult to make payments.

Last January, the mayor suspended the delivery of services on the island for five days due to the lack of fuel.

Tudela also said that work repairs and beautification work on the road to Mt. Tapochau has been finally completed, in time for today's Good Friday trek. It has become an annual tradition

for many of the island's Catholic devotees to hike to the top of Mt. Tapochau every Good Friday as a form of penance.

Tudela said he looks forward to seeing promising weather today and asked for the public's patience during the reduction of public services.

He assured people that the situation will not last long and an announcement is expected soon when full delivery of public services would resume.

"We are doing our best to meet the needs of the local community," Tudela said.

A benefit for

Beautify CNMI!

and

HANMI
HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

A Magical Night of Ukulele with Jake Shimabukuro

With a special performance by the **OLOMWAAY BAND!**

Saipan World Resort outdoor theatre
7PM Thursday, March 27, 2008
Adult - \$25
Children under 12 - \$15
Food & drinks will be on sale
Tickets are available at Marianas Eye Institute, Century Hotel, Shell gas stations, Saipan Tribune.

Sponsored by:

APC AQUA RESORT CLUB, Marianas Eye Institute, Saipan Tribune, MAR PAC, Seafix, Tan Holdings, Ken Real Estate Lease Ltd

JOETEN
ACE
HARDWARE

GUALO RAI BRANCH
Gualo Rai Commercial Center
Tel.: 235-9322 Fax: 235-9325

SAN VICENTE BRANCH
San Vicente Road
Tel.: 234-3176 Fax: 235-1686

SUSUPE BRANCH
Susupe Shopping Center
Tel.: 234-3117 Fax: 235-7568

**SCRATCH 50LB.
HOG FINISHER/GROWER 50LB. & 75LB.
CALIENTE MIX 50LB.
PIGEON PELLETS
BROILER GROWER 50LB.
CRACKED CORN
CAT FOOD NUTRENA 20LB.
DOG FOOD RIVER RUN 40LB.
PUPPY FOOD NUTRENA 20LB.
SALT BLOCK**

**FEEDS ARE AVAILABLE NOW
AT JOETEN ACE HARDWARE
ALL LOCATIONS!**

'Budget shortfall is estimated at \$14.5M'

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The chairman of the Senate Committee of Fiscal Affairs reported that the CNMI government is facing a shortfall of more than \$14 million if current spending under continuing resolution is not stopped.

In a committee report on the

budget bill passed by the House of Representatives last month, committee chair Maria Frica T. Pangelinan noted that the government is on target for General Fund expenditures of almost \$181 million by the end of fiscal year 2008.

This is troubling, she reported to the Senate last Wednesday, since the governor's budget pro-

posal identified just over \$160 million as revenues available to the General Fund.

Pangelinan said that when one adds the \$5 million in Compact Impact funds and \$1 million from P.L. 15-31, the \$20 million projected overrun will be



Pangelinan

reduced, but only slightly, to a shortfall of approximately \$14.54 million.

She said this translates to an overspending of approximately \$1.2 million per month under continuing resolution.

"This committee, when con-

sidering H.B. 16-51, must bear in mind how to compensate for the approximately \$7 million in deficit spending already incurred during these six months (as of March 31, 2008) of operating under a continuing resolution," the committee report read.

It added that whatever deficit is created in FY 2008, the government is bound by the Constitution to retire within two years. "It is really important that we move swiftly to avert the creation of a deficit in FY 2008," she said in the report.

The committee report recommended that the budget bill be referred to a joint committee,

See **BUDGET** on Next Page

DPS to deploy more cops for Good Friday events

The Department of Public Safety will deploy enough police officers to ensure the safety of worshippers in today's Good Friday's processions and trek to Mt. Tapochau.

Sgt. Thomas Blas, the new DPS traffic commander, told the media yesterday that they will be prepositioning police officers in various locations

leading to Mt. Tapochau early in the morning.

Blas said the officers would control traffic and monitor access to the mountain's peak to make sure it is open to the public.

He said the blessing of the cross will be at Mt. Carmel Church at 7am and will be followed with the procession to Mt. Tapochau.

The traffic commander said the trek to the mountain will start at the bottom of the hill near the former Civil Defense Office. He said there would be medic stations along the way.

"Traffic officers will be posted on locations that are hazardous and areas that need to be controlled," he said.

At the same time, Blas said,

the San Jose Church will have its own procession at 8am.

"We've got officers dedicated to monitor all these processions," he said.

In the afternoon, there will be a procession at Sta. Remedios Church in Tanapag. In the evening, an expected procession will be held at Mt. Carmel in Chalan Kanoa. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

H&R Block Office New Location

H&R BLOCK®

Tax Services

Beach Road, South Garapan
PMB 674 Box 10003 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-4728 • Fax: (670) 235-6726

Office Hours (Feb. 20th to Apr. 15th)
9:00am to 7:30pm • Monday through Saturday
(Other times by appointment)

THANK YOU

The Taga, Inc., the organizing committee of the 19th Annual Tagaman Triathlon, 7th Annual Saipan Xterra Championship and 7th Taga Kids Triathlon would like to thank the following businesses and agencies for making these events a great success:



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ❖ Office of the Governor | ❖ American Red Cross |
| ❖ Office of the Lieutenant Governor | ❖ Deloitte & Touche, LLC |
| ❖ Saipan Mayor's Office | ❖ Island Apparel |
| ❖ Commonwealth Health Center | ❖ Saipan Tribune |
| ❖ Department of Public Safety | ❖ Northern Marianas Triathlon Federation |
| ❖ Department of Public Works | ❖ Far East Broadcasting Company |
| ❖ Saipan TV Productions | ❖ Department of Parks & Recreations |
| ❖ American Memorial Park | ❖ Amateur Radio Club of Saipan |
| ❖ Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan | ❖ Pacific Development Inc. |
| ❖ Top Notch | ❖ Microl Corporation |
| ❖ Saipan Agogo | ❖ World Tour and Travel |
| ❖ Sk8 | ❖ JM & Associates |
| ❖ Hyatt Regency Saipan | ❖ Dollar Rent A Car |
| ❖ Triple J Wholesale | ❖ JTL Timing |
| ❖ Athlete's Foot | ❖ First Hawaiian Bank |
| ❖ Xterra Japan | ❖ KFC Triathlon Club of Japan |
| ❖ Law Office of Joshua Berger | ❖ Horizon, Inc. |
| ❖ Emmanuel College Nursing Students | ❖ Law Enforcement Explorer Program |
| ❖ Top Development Inc. | |

Special thanks to the general public for their kind understanding and support in making these events successful.

NOW OPEN

Center for Advanced Diabetes Eye Care



Mark Robertson, OD
Magna Cum Laude
Specializing in Diabetic Retinopathy Evaluation
Comprehensive Medical Eye Care
Vision Care

David Khorram, MD
America's Top Ophthalmologists
Specializing in Retinal and Diabetic Eye Disease
Advanced Cataract Surgery with Lens Implant
Complex Eye Disease

New Technologies

- High resolution photos of the inside of your eyes
- Evaluate blood flow through your retina
- Eye scan technology to examine the layers of your eyes
- Advanced "no stitch" Cataract Surgery with Lens Implant
- Use of innovative biological drugs
- Advanced Lasers for treatment of retinal disease



"Where Technology Meets Talent"

235-9090

Beach Road, Garapan
www.MarianasEye.com

One-Hour Glasses • Contacts • Medical Eye Care
Advance Surgery & Laser • Botox

We accept: Aetna, Staywell, Moylan's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Calvos, and more.

If you can't pay for your care, the Eye Foundation Fund helps cover your costs.

Family Outlet

XO MARKET

MIDDLE ROAD

H MART

FAMILY OUTLET

FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK

Tel: 1-670-2338986

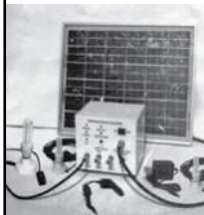
E-mail: bewindspn@yahoo.com

STORE HOURS: Mon.-Sat. • 9AM -6PM

yes.saipan.com (personal shop) under Home Appliance

Your alternative to high electricity bills

Solar Power System



Tailor-made to your specification.

Wind Generator



1000W for **\$3,500**
"Helping the environment and your pocket one home at a time"



\$1,100

Solar Water Heating System



starting at **\$840**
"Keep the environment and your budget out of hot water"

LPG Water Heater



\$82
Get Hot Water in an instant
When hot water not in use the gas is off
Money Save!!!



Counter Top **\$192**



Single Burner **\$39**

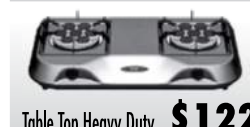


Table Top Heavy Duty **\$122**



Table Top **\$98**

Infrared heating gas stove. Available for both counter top and table top (no fumes, doesn't make your pot black, wind proof) **Save 20% on LPG.**

Save money and the planet this year! Everything you need to know to benefit from solar and wind energy. Visit us today!

GENE

From Page 1

Researchers found that specific variations in a stress-related gene appeared to be influenced by trauma at a young age—in this case child abuse. That interaction strongly increased the chances for adult survivors of abuse to develop signs of PTSD.

Among adult survivors of severe child abuse, those with the specific gene variations scored

more than twice as high (31) on a scale of post-traumatic stress, compared with those without the variations (13).

The worse the abuse, the stronger the risk in people with those gene variations.

The study of 900 adults is among the first to show that genes can be influenced by outside, nongenetic factors to trigger signs of PTSD. It is the largest of just two reports to show molecular evidence of a genetic influence on PTSD.

"We have known for over

a decade, from twin studies, that genetic factors play a role in vulnerability to developing PTSD, but have had little success in identifying specific genetic variants that increase risk of the disorder," said Karestan Koenen, a Harvard psychologist doing similar research. She was not involved in the new study.

The results suggest that there are critical periods in childhood when the brain is vulnerable "to outside influences that can shape the developing stress-response system," said Emory University

researcher and study co-author Dr. Kerry Ressler.

The study appears in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association. Several study authors, including Ressler, reported having financial ties to makers of psychiatric drugs.

Ressler noted that there are probably many other gene variants that contribute to risks for PTSD, and others may be more strongly linked to the disorder than the ones the researchers focused on.

Still, he and outside experts

said the study is important and that similar advances could lead to tests that will help identify who's most at risk. Treatments including psychotherapy and psychiatric drugs could be targeted to those people, Ressler said.

About a quarter of a million Americans will develop PTSD at some point in their lives after being victimized or witnessing violence or other traumatic events. Rates are much higher in war veterans and people living in high-crime areas.

Symptoms can develop long after the event and usually include recurrent terrifying recollections of the trauma. Sufferers often have debilitating anxiety,

irritability, insomnia and other signs of stress.

Dr. Thomas Insel, director of the National Institute of Mental Health, said the study is particularly valuable for the light it sheds on military veterans, who are known to be vulnerable to PTSD.

He said the results help explain differences in how two people see the same roadside bomb blast. One simply experiences it as "a bad day but goes back and is able to function." The other later develops paralyzing stress symptoms.

"This could be quite a wave that will hit us over the months and years ahead," Insel said. His agency paid for the study.



NMC MEETING

Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez and other college officials gather for a meeting on the accreditation status progress inside the NMC Board of Regents conference room Thursday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



CRIME OF THE WEEK

Burglary and theft

Crime Stoppers is asking the community for more information on any person(s) responsible for the recent burglary and theft at Len's Tavern located in Garapan. According to preliminary investigation, on Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 8:39am, police learned that an undetermined amount of money was stolen from five electronic amusement machines located inside the bar. The establishment was last secured at 1:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 18.

Anyone having information about this crime, call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous.

BUDGET

From Page 3

which the Senate unanimously voted to adopt during its session Wednesday.

The House passed the 2008 appropriations bill on March 3. It was introduced on Feb 29 by House Way and Means chair Ray Yumul and earmarks \$164.25 million for all government agencies under the Gen-

eral Fund and \$3.23 million for the Department of Public Lands, which is funded by income from leases on public lands.

In addition, the bill distributes \$5.117 million of Compact Impact funds, or reimbursement money from the federal government to the CNMI for hosting Micronesian citizens.

The budget will apply to the current fiscal year, which runs from Oct. 1, 2007 to Sept. 30, 2008.

4 COPS

From Page 1

ing overtime while the DPS Internal Affairs' investigations are still pending.

"Although these happened before I came in [at DPS] we are catching some of these discrepancies in the way things are

being administered internally," said the official, who recently replaced former commissioner Rebecca Warfield.

Norita said that, in the past, there were a lot of incidents where supervisors made their own decisions with respect to officers committing offenses. As a result, there were discrepancies in the way the cases were

adjudicated.

"That's why we are streamlining the process where Internal Affairs takes the lead and there are guidelines on how we serve the punishment. It's written guidelines that we have, the adverse action," he said.

The commissioner disclosed that one of the grounded officers is Norbert Mettao, who was ar-

rested, booked, and released for alleged disturbing the peace and non-payment of bills at Corner Pocket in Garapan.

Norita said that if the Attorney General's Office charge Mettao, then DPS will suspend him.

"If the AGO doesn't want to charge him, we will deal with him administratively," he explained.

KNIGHT

From Page 1

effect. It offers no details whatsoever to do so and no funding to do so. There are no economic incentives, no mitigating support—there is no safety net whatsoever included in the bill to take care of us if our econo-

my is damaged by the impact of the bill," she said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Knight, along with Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski traveled last month to Washington, D.C. to convince lawmakers about the potential damage federal takeover of immigration will have in the CNMI.

She said the complete phase out of the islands' guest worker program is the most unpalatable part of the provision.

"Unfortunately, the phasing out of our guest worker program is stated very clearly in the bill. The bill says it would take our program down to 'zero.' Zero is pretty harsh. When we asked federal officials what this meant,

they said 'zero,'" she said.

Knight, who is also publisher of the *Saipan Tribune*, added that even the lifting of caps for H visas during the transition period is unreasonable since that option will not be open for the Commonwealth after 2014.

"When we asked whether the lifting of the H caps would remain in effect if the transi-

tion period ends, we were told that it would not and that the H cap would go back in effect—absolutely—at the end of 2014, regardless of whether the transition would continue. So what does that mean? It would mean a forced decline in our population as we phase down our own program to zero."

Knight said she also does not

agree with a congressional staff source's assertion that S.2739 will extend permanent U.S. status to nonresident workers.

"The bill does not give permanent status to guest workers. It would place people under the H visa program, which does not fit our needs at all for long-term workers in all of the skill set we need in these islands," she said.

ASSURANCES

From Page 1

under the legislation. Such lofty aspirations, routinely ignored by the courts, are likely to be examined only if the need arises to ascertain the intent and meaning of a statute fairly susceptible to different constructions.

"In recent years, the U.S. Supreme Court has emphasized the need to focus on the specific words used by Congress in the statute's operative provisions, with little (if any) relevance attributed to legislative history or broadly-stated legislative objectives," said Reyes in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

The governor's press secretary added that the courts are more likely to find legislative intent in what Congress did in

writing S.2739—or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008—rather than in any Statement of Congressional Intent.

Reyes also took issue with the U.S. House of Representatives reducing the length of the transition period by four years—substituting the termination date of Dec. 31, 2013 (now 2014) for the previous date of Dec. 31, 2017.

"No reason was given for this change. This unexplained shortening of the transition period substantially increased the burdens on the Commonwealth economy by requiring the elimination of all foreign workers (nearly 20,000) from the Commonwealth by this earlier date. Does this sound consistent with the stated Congressional Intent to provide for 'an orderly phase-out of the nonresident contract worker program?' Does this

promise 'to minimize, to the greatest extent practicable, potential adverse economic and fiscal effects of phasing-out the Commonwealth's nonresident contract worker program?'" asked Reyes.

Another area of contention, Reyes said, is that the proposed measure grants virtually unlimited discretion to the federal agencies responsible for implementing the law.

"Only the most general language is used with respect to the establishment of the permitting system (any reasonable method and criteria) or the grant of an extension of the transition program.

"Frequently the legislation provides that the decision is in 'the Secretary's sole discretion' or involves 'a foreign affairs function,' both designed to deny the Commonwealth any access

to the federal courts to challenge the agency's decision."

He said that the Government Accountability Office has tentatively concluded that it cannot assess the likely impact of many of the proposed legislation's most important provisions "in the absence of the agency regulations that will reveal how the agencies have decided to exercise their broad discretion under the law."

Reyes said that, although S.2739 does allow for extension of five-year increments, it only does so in order for the CNMI to wean itself of its nonresident workforce.

"Mr. Wicker correctly points out that the transition period can be extended—so long as the goal of the legislation remains the elimination of all foreign workers in the Commonwealth.

The availability of extensions—which might or might not be granted—offers very limited comfort to Commonwealth employers or their foreign workers. Surely, Mr. Wicker can understand the difficulties and uncertainties that these provisions bring to the Commonwealth and its economy."

Even if the extension is considered, Reyes said it is still up to a number of agencies to allow that.

"As for the possibility of more than one extension of the transition period, Mr. Wicker might turn his attention to the House Committee report regarding this legislation. The Committee there stated: 'The Secretaries of Labor, Homeland Security, and State would be able to extend the transition period for AN additional five years; Congressio-

nal notification is required,'" he said.

The governor's press secretary also questioned why S.2739 will go immediately to the White House for President Bush's signature since amendments to it would still require House approval.

"We would appreciate Mr. Wicker's clarification of his recent statement that, after approval of S. 2739 by the Senate, the legislation would go directly to the President for signature. In view of the change made in the bill by the Senate Committee (changing the date from 2013 to 2014), is it not necessary for the House of Representatives to act on the amended bill passed by the Senate?"

As of press time, Wicker has yet to respond to an e-mail message asking him for comments.

Labor to implement hardship exemptions

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Many nonresident workers with

families or who are facing real hardships will not be made to go through the mandatory exit requirement, according to La-

bor Department officials.

Public Law 15-108 requires foreign workers to exit the islands every three

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Department of Public Health
Women, Infants and Children Program
Navy Hill Bldg N-25



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On August 8, 2007 the Department of Public Health officially opened the Women, Infants and Children Program, better known as "WIC."

The WIC Program is 100% federally funded, and provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals for pregnant and new mothers, infants and children below the age of five (5).

The WIC Program's goals are to reduce nutrition related health problems, promote breastfeeding, prevent anemia, and help lower medical costs for low-income families in the CNMI.

WIC foods include iron-fortified infant formula and infant cereal, iron-fortified adult cereal, vitamin C-rich fruit or vegetable juice, eggs, milk, cheese, peanut butter, dried beans/peas, tuna fish and carrots. Special therapeutic infant formulas and medical foods may be provided when prescribed by a physician for a specified medical condition.

The Program would like to thank the community for its patience during the initial phase of operation, and would like to assure the residents of Rota and Tinian that plans are underway to bring services to these respective islands. More information will be provided when the proposed opening dates are confirmed.

Eligible participants must meet income guidelines, CNMI residency requirements, and be determined to be "nutritionally at risk" by a health professional.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 236-8750/58 or visit the WIC Clinic in the CHC Dialysis Center, north entrance.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Labor director Barry Hirshbein gestures while talking to members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management about PL 15-108 and its Implementing Regulations during the group's general membership meeting at the Palms Resort Saipan Thursday. Also in photo are legal counsel to the administration Deanne Siemer and deputy secretary of Labor Cinta Kaipat, author of P.L. 15-108.

and a half years but, according to lawyer Deanne Seimmer, who is assisting Labor, the department is working on implementing a "hardship exemption" that would postpone the exit requirement for foreign workers who are facing "real hardships."

"We recognize that there are foreign workers who do not have a place to go, or too many children to take with them, or are facing a situation on island that

will not allow them to leave," Seimmer said.

The department is working with a variety of agencies such as the Philippine Consulate General, the Legislature, and other foreign worker groups to come up with a fair set of criteria on how to implement the exemption for foreign workers who are faced with real hardship.

"The hardship exemption will not excuse the periodic

exit altogether," Seimmer explained, "but will postpone the periodic exit" until the employee can be able to leave without conflict.

Seimmer said that in the U.S. mainland, there is "almost no hardship exemption. But because we're a small place, and we need provisions that are appropriate for our situation, we try to accommodate everyone's interest in putting this [hardship exemption] together."

There is no set date yet as to when the provision will take place.

Key employees

The DOL is also trying to work on allowing employers to designate 10 percent of their employees as "key employees," who will be exempted from exiting as required by the new law.

"You will get to pick who your 'key employees' are because you as the employer know who is important to your business, and they will not have to leave," Seimmer said.

She said that the department "is trying to do the best we can for the Commonwealth and develop a system that is fair for everyone, not burdensome for everyone and at the same time complies with the general U.S. requirement for a touchback."

Touchback refers to requiring aliens to go back to their home countries periodically for brief periods of time. This results in a gap in an alien's stay in his or her host country, preventing him or her from obtaining resident status.

"The U.S. immigration system requires touchbacks for non-immigrant visa holders," she said.

24/7 POWER AVAILABLE



Realty Management services is a full-service property management company located on the island of Saipan in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PMB 521 Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Tel: 1 (670) 235-6527/28
Fax: (670) 235-6530
sales@rmssaipan.com
www.rmssaipan.com

OCEANVIEW TERRACES



Spacious two bedroom terrace apartments with a beautiful view of Western Saipan from Navy Hill. All units feature a private balcony, are fully furnished and feature FREE wireless DSL internet service.

- 24 Hour Water
- Night time security
- Typhoon Shutters
- Laundry area
- Backup Generator
- On-call maintenance staff



Now we're giving you more reasons to sign up for a year's contract!

Receive an annual FREE VIP Membership to Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and enjoy these VIP privileges:

- 2 Free Sunday Brunch Buffet for two
- 20% discount on food and beverages in all outlets / restaurants
- 20% discount on drinks after happy hour at the Chambre Bar
- Above discounts good for up to 6 persons (including VIP cardholder)

Japanese media leave, but vow to come back

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The once busy camp of the Japanese media at the parking lot in front of the Department of Corrections in Susupe was almost empty yesterday, after the visiting reporters and their crew started leaving the island.

"I just suddenly felt sad. I miss

Five busted for alleged burglary at Roshi's Market

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Officers of the Department of Public Safety's Thief Apprehension Select Coalition arrested yesterday three men and two male juveniles who were allegedly behind the burglary at Roshi's Market in Kagman, during which several items were stolen.

At a press briefing, DPS Commissioner Claudio K. Norita identified the suspects as Frank Quitaneq, 18; Julian Sablan, 18; Roman Cabrera Jr., 41; and two 16-year-old males.

Norita said the five defendants were arrested when TASC members executed a search and arrest warrant at two houses in San Antonio and As Perdido at 10am.

The commissioner said all suspects will be charged with burglary, theft, and criminal mischief.

A bail hearing for the suspects is expected to be held today, Friday, in the Superior Court.

Sablan, Cabrera, and one of the juveniles were also allegedly arrested before for burglary and theft cases.

Norita said the burglary and theft incident that took place at Roshi's Market last Feb. 28 was reported to the police at 6:53am that day.

Stolen items included an undetermined amount of money, assorted clothing, packs of cigarettes, and other grocery items.

Investigators said the total estimated value of the stolen items is \$5,711.

Detective George David said a cashier discovered the break-in on Feb. 28 when she opened the store and found candies, clothing, and coins scattered on the floor.

The suspects apparently managed to get inside the store by pulling out the backroom window.

David said that they relied on basic police investigation work and techniques to gather information on the streets about who may have been involved in the burglary.

He said they were able to recover some of the items such as clothing and shoes. Some of the stolen items have already been disposed of or consumed, the detective said.

them," a court employee told *Saipan Tribune*.

The employee, who requested anonymity, said that she saw some of reporters removing their tents in the morning when she passed by the parking lot of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, where the journalists had put up tents and satellite receivers.

By noon yesterday, the parking area was already empty and was very quiet, she added.

The court employee said that for almost a month, she was a witness to the aggressiveness of the Japanese media, who would patiently wait in front of DOC as early as 7am and even under the scorching sun.

The journalists began arriving on the island Feb. 24 when news spread that Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura had been arrested at the Saipan International Airport on Feb. 22.

Most of them went back to

Tokyo yesterday, while others are leaving today. Some journalists are based in their respective offices in Manila, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Seoul.

The exodus follows Super

ior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona's ruling on Wednesday, granting Miura a month to submit a petition challenging the extradition case filed against him. Manglona set the

saw the 60-year-old Miura trying to drink water in the courtroom and his right hand was shaking.

"Miura tried to hide it [shaking] by slowly holding his right

next hearing for May 28.

Most of the journalists, however, said that they would return to Saipan before the May 28 proceeding.

Takashi Terasawa, *Nikkan Sports News* staff writer, said he arrived Feb. 26 and has since fallen in love with the island. He was set to fly back to Tokyo yesterday afternoon.

"It's very beautiful. I stayed at the Grand Hotel so every morning before I go to work I would go swimming," Terasawa said.

He said his favorite place is Managaha Island.

Terasawa said a scene that has stuck with him during the entire coverage was when he once

hand with the left hand. It was the most amazing scene I've ever seen," the writer said.

For Kaho Izumitani, *Nippon Hosokyo Kyokai* international news correspondent, the blue color of the beach and the nice people made her stay worthwhile.

"The people are very nice, very friendly. They always offer a smile. I also like the barbecue style at the beach. And I love the color of the sea," said Izumitani, who joined NHK's crew on Saipan on March 8.

As a Japanese journalist, she said she found the Miura coverage very hard because the legal system is completely different from that of Japan.

Izumitani said the case is quite a challenge because she has never covered an extradition case.

"It's such a good experience. It's a good opportunity to know the American legal system. I'm learning a lot," she said.

The correspondent said that the island heat is scorching, but that she was able to adapt to the weather.

Izumitani's two co-workers left yesterday. She and six co-staff members are leaving today.

"For sure, I will come back here," she said, smiling.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The once busy parking lot of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in front of the Department of Corrections, where the visiting Japanese media camped out for almost a month, is nearly empty. The Japanese journalists started leaving the island yesterday, but vowed to come back before the May 28 hearing in the extradition case against Kazuyoshi Miura.



2008 models have arrived!

The All-New Altima Luxury. Now available to all.



Push Button Ignition. Intelligent Key. Available Bluetooth® Hands-Free Phone System. Bringing performance and luxury to drivers everywhere.

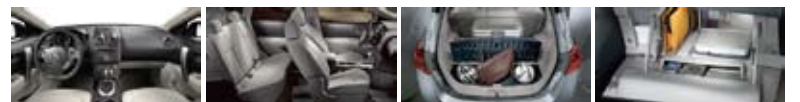


The All-New Altima Coupe COMING SOON!

Introducing Rogue A whole new crossover



The All-New Nissan Rogue with available intuitive All-Wheel Drive, extra-smart storage and a street-savvy 27 miles per gallon. Driving is fun again.



2007 MODELS CLEARANCE

NISSAN	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE	HONDA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Versa HB	#7L360734	Blue	\$15,990.00	Fit	#7S025556	Mist	\$14,995.00
Versa S	#7L398849	White	\$15,990.00	Fit Sport	#7S025556	Blue	\$16,495.00
Centra	#7L61148	Gray	\$16,990.00	Civic DX	#7L061948	White	\$16,995.00
Frontier XE	#7C40822	White	\$23,990.00	CR-V LX	#7C07955	White	\$22,995.00
Frontier SE	#7C408903	Silver	\$26,990.00	Ridgeline	#7H505732	Silver	\$32,990.00
Pathfinder	#6C67466	Granite	\$29,990.00				
FORD	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE	KIA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Ranger	#7PA31119	White	\$16,990.00	Rio	#76292370	White	\$12,995.00
Fusion	#7R127180	Pearl	\$18,990.00	Rio	#76292373	Gray	\$12,995.00
Escape	#7KB4588	Silver	\$19,990.00	Sportage	#7735376	Silver	\$17,695.00
F-150	#6NB05745	White	\$21,990.00	Sorento	#65602982	Green	\$18,995.00
Sport Trac	#7UA6534	Gold	\$26,990.00				



SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. - FRI. 8 AM - 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON
TEL. 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last.



Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU



PAC 6 WORKSHOP

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Special education and general education teachers listen to Jean Clayton, Technical Assistance Specialist, University of Kentucky, Inclusive Large Scale Standards and Assessment group, during the Pacific Assessment Consortium (PAC 6) workshop on "Implementing the stepwise process for accessing the general curriculum" at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Thursday. The University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service served as the facilitator of the PAC Project. The workshop aims to enhance the participant's knowledge and skills for addressing the participation of students with disabilities in the educational system of standards, assessments, and accountability.

'Extend land leases to 80 years'

A Saipan lawmaker wants the CNMI Constitution amended to allow land leases to be extended from the current 55-year period to 80 years.

Sen. Luis P. Crisostomo (Democrat-Saipan) introduced Senate Legislative Initiative 16-09 last Wednesday, which proposes "...a constitutional amendment to Ar-

ticle XII Section 3 of the CNMI Constitution to change the term permanent and long-term interests in real property."

According to the Legislative Initiative, the Legislature finds that extending the term permanent and long-term from 55 to 80 years will revitalize major investment projects in the Commonwealth.

The change is also expected to revive the real estate market that would eventually benefit landowners, real estate brokers, and investors, the Legislative Initiative read.

"The longer lease period will facilitate banking and other lending institutions in funding major development loans, mortgages,

etc., and enhance business opportunities in the secondary market," the measure said.

Senate Legislative Initiative 16-09 requires an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of each chamber present and voting before being placed for the people for ratification. *(Mark Rabago)*

Neighborhood Team working to revive Saipan's neglected areas

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Neighborhood Enhancement and Revitalization Team met last week for their first meeting to discuss ideas and efforts to help bring life back to some of Saipan's neglected areas.

Saipan Municipal Council chair Antonia M. Tudela said that much attention and resources are pumped into the hotels, beaches, scenic vistas, ports of entry, tourists and related areas that tourists visit but not much to anywhere else.

"It is time for us to take a step back and apply the same energy and enthusiasm dedicating ourselves to improving the quality of life for the people living on this island, the island that we all call home," Tudela said.

The Neighborhood and Revitalization Team is composed of members from various agencies such as the Division of Environmental Quality, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Safety, Saipan Mayor's Office, Commonwealth Development Authority, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Historic Preservation Unit, Commonwealth Development Authority, Marianas Visitors Authority, Coastal Resources



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Municipal Council chair Antonia M. Tudela, seated center, with the newly formed Neighborhood Revitalization and Enhancement Team.

Management, the JROTC, and the Saipan Municipal Council.

Tudela said the inner villages where the most of the island's people live is the essence of the neighborhood revitalization and enhancement project.

In order to address the needs of the island's inner villages, the team would need commitment and a sense of ownership.

"We do not anticipate much funding to be involved, as we have the collective resources at our disposal already—ourselves," Tudela said.

The purpose of the initiative is to develop local capacity at

the village level for residents to partake in the preservation and promotion of the historic assets of the community, to promote environmental stewardship, and enhance the physical and cultural characteristics of the villages.

"The goal is to build enough capacity at the village level for residents to be able to continue this project a part of the overall neighborhood revitalization and enhancement program," Tudela said.

She added that the focus of the initiative is on the health and safety aspects of the villages, "in order to build and nurture

a vibrant community for trade and commerce," which in turn "provides local employment and other economic opportunities for the neighborhood."

The group will meet again next week Tuesday morning at the office of the Saipan Municipal Council to plan and discuss ideas for the implementation of the project.

The team has made it clear that the first village they will tackle first is Chalan Kanoa as it is the capital of Saipan, a village rich in history, and the home of many of Saipan's local residents.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MARCH 21, 2000

Elameto eyes suit vs CUC

Former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board Chairperson Rosario M. Elameto has protested her ouster as head of the policy-making body as she expressed concern that the action by some members may be unconstitutional. In a sign of growing infighting within the seven-man board, she asked the Attorney General's Office to bring the issue to court and seek a judgment on behalf of CUC and the government.

Guerrero vows major revamp in utility firm

Newly elected Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero yesterday vowed to institute major policy changes and revamp management in an effort to bridge its widening gap with the Legislature and the community. He also stressed that the decision to oust former Chairperson Rosario M. Elameto was made after a "thorough review" of applicable public laws and CUC regulations.

Ohle: What power struggle?

Assistant Attorney General Bill Ohle yesterday confirmed reports that he has resigned as legal counsel for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, but denied speculation linking his move to the current infighting among board members. He said he has been planning his departure since six months ago to move back to the U.S. mainland with his wife who wants to attend a four-year college there. In fact, he had informed CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez about his plan last month.

MARCH 21, 2001

Stable signs of economic turnaround in the horizon

Despite the weak rally of local businesses during the past three years, hope continues to spring eternal for the Northern Marianas economy. The Commonwealth Development Authority has started receiving inquiries and applications from foreign investors under the recently-enacted Investment Incentive Act of 2000.

Teno keeps options open on 3-year limit brouhaha

Breaking his silence on what could be the most talked about issue in the CNMI, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday dropped strong hints he may support moves to suspend implementation of the three-year limit law. In an interview with reporters yesterday, Mr. Tenorio said he has been very critical of any proposal to impose restrictions on the stay of nonresidents on the islands, amid the absence of sufficient local workers to man government and business operations.

Business leaders cry foul on takeover bill

Saipan Chamber of Commerce members yesterday took turns castigating US lawmakers who revived efforts to federalize local immigration and labor systems. This came a day after businessmen demonstrated their disgust over the CNMI Senate's dawdling on the repeal of the three-year limit law.

MARCH 21, 2002

Japan travel execs: 100-K more visitors feasible

Top executives from the four leading travel agencies in Japan flew in yesterday to take part in a meeting of the Tourism Strategic Planning Task Force, where they expressed optimism that the plan to bring in an additional 100,000 visitors to the CNMI this year is attainable. DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce identified the Japanese travel executives as Shigeru Murata and Minoru Yoshida, both representing travel agency HTM-Japan; Hiromi Tsuchiya, representing JalPak; Yoshinobu Onizawa, of PMT; and Katsumi Yajima, of R and C.

Immunity bill being ironed out

Faced with an undetermined number of illegal aliens in the Commonwealth, the Senate committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs is looking into proposing a measure that would seek to grant immunity to illegal aliens who voluntarily present themselves. Saying the issue is actually an economic problem, Senate President Paul Manglona disclosed that the committee, chaired by Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig, is working on a bill somewhat similar to the Limited Immunity Act implemented a few years ago in the Commonwealth.

JOETEN'S EASTER SALE!

Bargain In Every Aisle!

Sale starts on March 21 to 26, 2008

50% - 75% off

Selected items only
MENS SHIRTS, MENS PANTS,
LADIES DRESSES, SETS,
BLOUSES, BRAS, PANTIES,
SKIRTS, PANTS, SHOES
AND SANDALS



Picnic and Patio
25% off



Wicker Baskets
25% off



Housewares
25% off



Unscented Pillar
Candles 2pack
\$3.99



Standard Pillow
\$6.99



Easy Sweep Corn Broom
\$2.99



Easter Baskets,
Stuffed
Animals and
Accessories
35% off



Easter Gift Baskets
25% off



Easter Candies
15% off



Supermarket

New Zealand
Shoulder Steak
Family Bag 8lb.
\$15.99/bg.



New Zealand
Boneless Beef
Clod
\$1.99
/lb.



New Zealand Beef
For Stew Family Bag
7lb.
\$14.99



Chicken Leg
Quarter 33lb./case
\$23.99
/cs.



Chicken Leg
Quarter 22lb./case
\$16.99
/cs.



US Pork
Spareribs 30lb./case
\$19.99
/cs.



TILAPIA
(Limit 1 case)
79¢
/lb.



New Zealand
1/2 Shell Mussels
2.2lb.
\$5.99
/ea.



ASAHI
Pure Cane Sugar
2kg (4.4lbs.)
\$1.79
/ea.



ACE Diamonds
Tuna in water
7oz.
89¢
/ea.



Golden Monkey
Jasmine Rice
25lb.
\$10.99
/ea.



Western Family
Ultra Regular
Bleach 96oz.
\$3.49
/ea.



Angel Soft
Bathroom
Tissue 4 Rolls
\$1.99
/ea.

Come for more selections!

Joeten Shopping Center
P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 234-6446/48 Fax. 234-5876

Thank you for shopping at all Joeten Stores: Joeten Shopping Center Susupe,
Hafa Adai Shopping Center, Dandan Shopping Center and Big Bargain Chalan Piao

We accept major credit cards • We welcome Foodstamps • We reserve the right to limit quantities • We are not responsible for any typo errors



Lucky Shampoo
or Conditioner 16.9oz.
\$1.49



Daily Renewal Gel
or Hair Spray
\$2.59



Mystic Body Spray
\$2.39



Alberto VO5 Shampoo
or Conditioner 15oz.
\$1.59



Toastermaster 4 Slice
Oven Toaster Broiler
\$36.99



Oster 10
Speed
Blender
\$44.99



Presto 6Qrt.
Pressure
Cooker
\$42.99



Presto
Microwave
Corn Popper
\$19.99



Zojirushi
Rice Cooker
1.8 Liter
\$97.00



Proctor Silex
12 Cup
Coffeemaker
\$25.49



Proctor Silex
5 Speed
Handmixer
\$12.99



Proctor Silex
Coffee
Grinder
\$14.99



Toastermaster
2 Slice
Toaster
\$13.49



Jefferson
Area Rug
3x5
\$19.99



Jefferson
Area Rug
4x6
\$31.99

U.S. Produce

Look for these and more

great savings throughout our store!



Gala
Apples
\$1.49
/lb.



Brown
Potatoes
77¢
/lb.



Baby
Carrots
\$1.49
/bg



Romaine
Hearts
Lettuce
\$2.99
/bg.



Cauliflower
\$1.35
/lb.

Visit us for more savings at our Produce section!

Aiko's SNACK BAR

Accepts Phone
Orders

Lunch is available Monday through Saturday
from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please call 234-6445 for daily specials!



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 81Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Moving a nation

It may have begun as an exercise in political damage control, but Barack Obama's speech in Philadelphia on "A More Perfect Union" was that rarity in American political discourse: a serious discussion of racial division, distrust and demonization. Whether or not the speech defuses the controversy about some crackpot comments by Obama's longtime pastor, it redefines our national conversation about race and politics and lays down a challenge to the cynical use of the "race card."

When the Illinois senator took the podium Tuesday at the National Constitution Center, he already had condemned a series of inflammatory statements by his friend and mentor, the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr. In his speech, Obama reiterated his view that some of Wright's comments were "not only wrong but divisive."

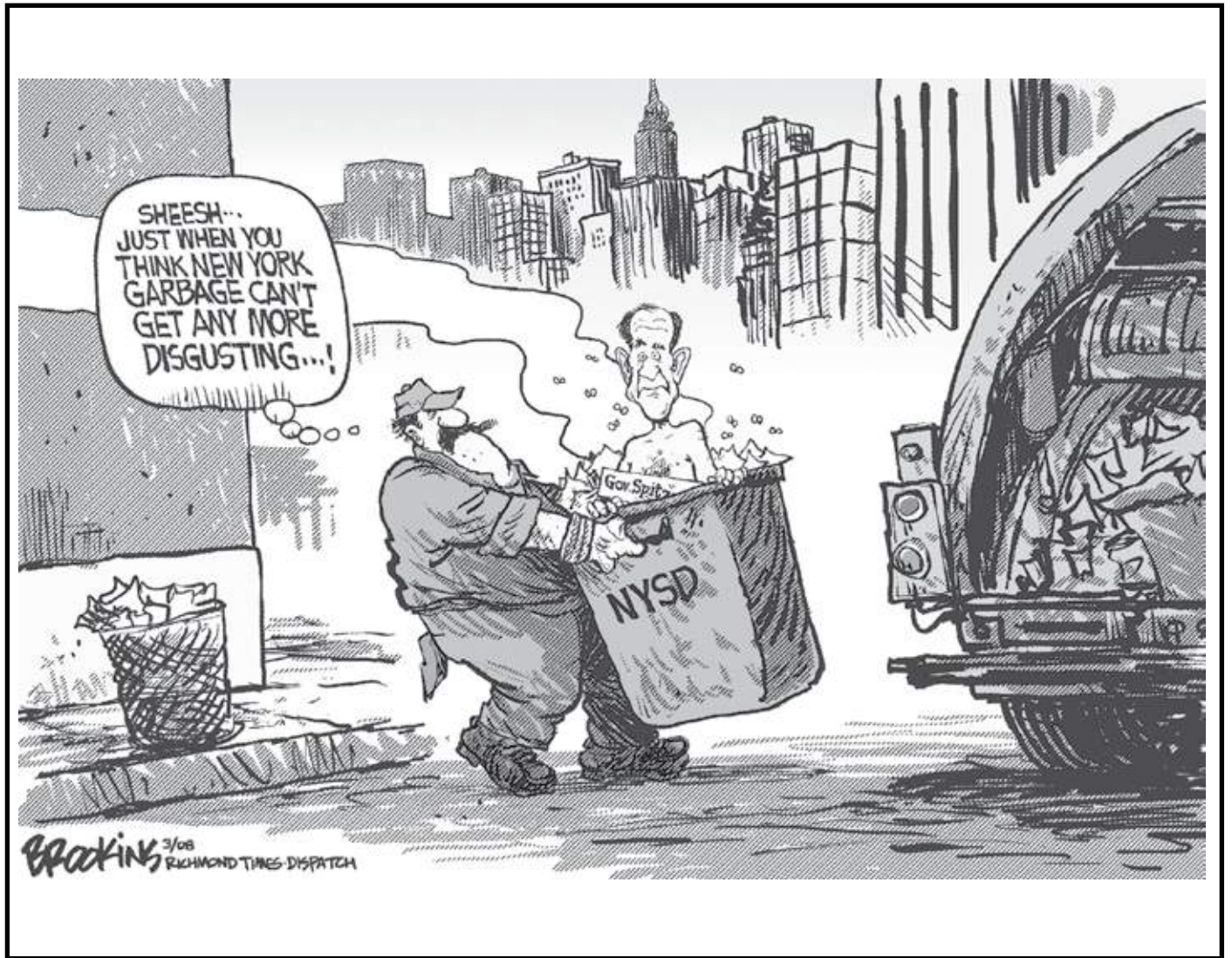
That description certainly applies to Wright's suggestion that "God damn America" is a more appropriate sentiment than "God bless America" and his assertion that the 9/11 attacks represented the "chickens coming home to roost" for a racist society that dropped nuclear bombs on Japan and helped to oppress Palestinians and black South Africans. (Sept. 11 seems to bring out the demagogue in preachers on both the right and the left. Pat Robertson and the late Jerry Falwell famously portrayed the attacks as divine retribution for the abominations of legal abortion, feminism and gay rights.)

But in his speech, Obama also offered a context that explained (without excusing) Wright's ravings: "For the men and women of Rev. Wright's generation, the memories of humiliation and doubt and fear have not gone away; nor has the anger and the bitterness of those years. That anger may not get expressed in public, in front of white co-workers or white friends. But it does find voice in the barbershop or around the kitchen table."

This is the sort of blunt language that is seldom heard in stump speeches by politicians of any race. And Obama was equally direct in pointing out that fulminations like Wright's have an analogue in the angry utterances of white Americans who believe -- and are encouraged by politicians to believe -- that their interests are threatened by progress for African Americans. He noted that these resentments as well "aren't always expressed in polite company. But they have helped shape the political landscape for at least a generation."

That landscape has claimed many victims, and as he and Hillary Rodham Clinton continue their contest for the Democratic nomination, Obama conceded that some of the crasser remarks by their supporters "reflect the complexities of race in this country that we've never really worked through -- a part of our union that we have yet to perfect." That is undeniably true and refreshingly honest. No single speech will recalibrate America's consideration of race and politics, but we are closer today, thanks to this remarkable address, to facing our history and perfecting our nation.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



The dollar and credit bombs: Told you so!

For many years, I have warned *Saipan Tribune* readers that the U.S. dollar, and the pile of toxic debt it is built on, will all collapse in an ugly heap.

And it's happening. Right in front of our eyes. It's the stuff of global headlines right now. There will be time, a lot of time, later, to analyze the impact on Saipan, but today let's just ponder the general situation.

And first, yes, I'll say "I told you so," about this dollar and credit gig, since I figure if a guy ventures predictions in writing, he's entitled to settle the account when the scores come in.

Now that the stuff has hit the fan, many folks have asked me, recently, how they can prepare for the financial mess. Well, it's too late to prepare, of course. The time to hide from this storm was before it hit, which is why I've been poking you in the chest all these years with my warnings.

Understand this: This is not a mere U.S. "recession" we're talking about, anymore than driving your car off Suicide Cliff is a speeding problem. This isn't some hiccup in financial markets that can be smoothed over by the government, the banking industry, some clever interest rate tweaking, a glib speech, or anything else. The plain fact is that the world is realizing that the U.S. has amassed so many debts, both public and private, that much of the money can't, and won't, be paid back. In order to try to prop up this dead horse, the U.S. is reducing interest rates and, basically sacrificing the value of the dollar in the process. My pals who thought I was paranoid about this years ago, well, they aren't laughing now. Suckers!

This is a one-way slide. Standards of living in the United States will fall substantially. I don't want that to happen, of course, but what I want isn't the issue.

As it is, over my lifetime, I have seen the typical middle class household going from needing one earner, to needing two, just to get by. It's not the welfare class that is totally dependent on government; now the middle class, too, has government as the single biggest player in their expenses, their mortgages, their educations, their health care, their pensions. I'm not saying this is good or bad, it's simply what the people want. Politically, nothing else can come from a large democracy.

But, economically, they've been living in a fool's paradise, thinking they could enjoy both a living standard toward the top of the list, while also plunging into total bureaucratic collectivism. The latter entails centralized planning, and this induces distortions in markets

But, economically, they've been living in a fool's paradise, thinking they could enjoy both a living standard toward the top of the list, while also plunging into total bureaucratic collectivism.

By ED STEPHENS

Ed's column runs every Friday.
Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com.

that eventually reduce economic output, investment and, eventually, average income. Again, I am not saying this is good or bad; that's not my judgment to make.

In the coming months, you can expect a louder chorus of whining for "somebody else" to fix everything, since the people have long ago given up their abilities, or even desire, to control their own lives. You've seen this dynamic on Saipan, of course; the "next" politician is going to fix everything that the "last" politician messed up.

My first exposure to that mentality was my school days, when I'd travel to Europe. I noticed that the main topic of conversation in cafés and on trains was how the government should do this, or should do that. Government, not private initiative, was the central focus of life. Subsidies took place of opportunity. Many people seemed to revel in their helplessness; they rooted for officials to improve their lives like football fans root for a running back to score a goal.

Sure, it's an odd way to live, yelling from the sidelines, but it requires no exertion or skill, and it allows one to blame everyone

else, or at least someone else, for any bad outcomes. Most of the Western world has sunk to this level. The Eastern world, by contrast, is rising. And here, twist the two, is Saipan.

Never mind what the stock market did yesterday. Forget what the pooh-bahs of policy say. And who cares what gold costs? That's mere trivia now, so trivial that it's not even newsworthy. The real news is that, as much as it breaks my heart to see it, the U.S. financial structure is in danger of losing its credibility. The recent headlines may be the gust front ahead of the storm, or they may be the actual storm, but rest assured, the dark clouds are on the horizon.

So don't condescend too much to our garment workers; your grandchildren may wind up being nannies for their grandchildren.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Greatness at Hopwood

I was invited to participate as a judge at the Hopwood Junior High Science Fair this week. I have never been to Hopwood, but I was impressed.

A junior high is a place of potential and promise. On this day, the cafeteria was teeming with students and their science projects. I was impressed by the care that they had put into their presentations. They reported on the moons of Saturn, global warming, the ebb and flow of the tides. Some used color photos and graphs to illustrate their points. Others cited the scientific literature from which they had gathered their information.

Other students went a step beyond, and conducted scientific experiments. They formulated hypotheses, experiments to test their hypotheses, recorded their methods, collected data and recorded their conclusions. There were experiments to answer questions like, what is required to conduct electricity? Is *Outrageous Ooze* a solid or a liquid? Can a very small amount of pollution cause a plant to die? Can the heat from the sun cook a hotdog? How does wind speed affect the waves in the ocean?

One group of students showed amazing computer skills and creativity, forgoing the traditional three-panel cardboard display, to produce a digital film that reported on their subject: volcanoes.

The science fair was a glimpse into the greatness walking the halls at Hopwood. The age is a time of transition between childhood and youth—potent internal changes, self-doubts, questions about meaning and purpose. Those short years are a window of opportunity opening onto the vista of the person to emerge.

There was a light in the eyes of most of the students, but a light which they themselves do not seem to see. Their own vastness, they do not recognize. They are, for the most part, unaware of their own greatness, bound and gagged by an innocent awkwardness. It is at this age, in a search for Nirvana, that kids either recognize their importance to the world, and aspire to all that lies within them, or they slide into a haze of sex and alcohol and reefer and mediocrity.

If I could say anything to all those students I met, I would say, you have greatness within you. You can aspire to anything. See not your limitations, but the vastness of your souls. Dream big, huge,

By **DAVID KHORRAM**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD is a board certified ophthalmologist and director of Marianas Eye Institute. Comments and questions are welcome. Call 235-9090 or email him through www.Marianas-Eye.com, or leave comments at www.Marianas-Eye.blogspot.com. Copyright © 2007 David Khorram



gigantic dreams. Accept no ceilings. Aim for the stars. Whatever obstacles that may stifle your hopes can be overcome. You have God-given talents. Set out to discover them. Dream of solving the world's problems, because you can. The greatness at the halls of Hopwood is the same as in any school in the world. Believe it. Accept it. Act as if it's real. It is. The light of the world is within you.

Letters to the Editor

Hands off on MPLT funds!

First, I wish to extend my sincere thank you to Rep. Heinze Hofschneider for taking the time to enlighten the public with legislative initiatives H.L.I. 16-3, 16-4, and 16-8, in the March 17, 2008 of John Gonzales's Talk Show. I tried to call in to share my thoughts on the issue; unfortunately, there were more callers that time and I was not able to get on line.

Nonetheless, I respectfully wanted to share my concerns about H.L.I. 16-3 or the MPLT proposed amendments. My concern is twofold; 1) the use of NMI-descent money, and 2) CUC privatization. I stand to be corrected if I am wrong. Thank you.

Before I touch the issues of concerns, let me publicly pronounce that the idea to rehabilitate or fix CUC's problem, and to help lower the power rates are noble ideas. This is a public outcry that must be addressed immediately. Unfortunately, I feel that there are still gray areas

that have not been openly shared with the public. I wish to share these gray areas with the public, particularly the NMI descent.

On the first issue, I know that the founding fathers of the CNMI Constitution intentionally reserved the MPLT funds strictly to benefit those residing on Saipan, Tinian and Rota who have met the CNMI Constitution's definition of NMI descent (having one quarter percent, or 25 percent, Carolinian or Chamorro blood).

To use monies belonging to NMI descent to rehabilitate CUC engines is quite not right. I know that it is not right because the stakeholders (customers) for CUC include individuals who are not NMI descent. As such, to spend NMI descent monies on CUC will greatly benefit those individuals who are not NMI descent. This action is wholly contrary to the intent of the CNMI Constitution. This is utterly not right!

On a side note, the California casinos belong to the Indians in the California reservation. Therefore, all monies collected by the casinos are expended for the California Indians only. All other Americans in California, sorry!

Here is my idea of how to use the NMI descent monies from the MPLT funds' interest. Use the interest of the MPLT funds to compensate those NMI descents whose lands have been taken by the CNMI government for public purpose(s). In this way, the expenditures of only NMI descent monies are expended for NMI descent only! I know that this, in every respect, is wholly right.

On the second issue, CUC privatization has been an ongoing discussion for the last five administrations of the CNMI government. Like my friends on Rota would say "Just do it, Rota," as such I would say, "Just do it, congressmen and congresswomen." But please not at the expense of the NMI descent. Most particularly, expending NMI descent monies to rehabilitate or fix CUC engines and then privatize the corporation. This is quite not right!

If my analogy on the use of only NMI descent monies to rehabilitate or fix CUC power plants and then privatize the power plant is incorrect, then I will stand to be corrected and thank you. Here is the

See **HANDS on Page 14**

‘Save endangered local marine business’

If someone owes me more money than I owe him and he wants me to pay him, my answer would simply be: "Pay me first and I'll pay you. Or take out what I owe you and pay me the difference."

I've been in the marine sports business for over 10 years and I've seen many local marine businesses fail in this terrible economy. Seaspray is one of the last local businesses with Fred Nosek and his boat. I lived on Navy Hill with Fred growing up and I know the road that the government took from Fred's Family. I know his father who is very ill and his mother who takes care of him. They are good and decent people. Fred asks for nothing except fairness.

The problem is the DPL won't say when it will pay, only when the government finds money. But CDA wants Fred to pay within five years even if the government doesn't pay him for the road. He has tried his best to get paid by DPL, even if it has taken over 15 years just to get an offer to pay. Is that fair that if he doesn't get paid in five years, they'll take and destroy an endangered local business?

Outside foreign investors get to apply for a Qualifying Certificate from CDA and pay no taxes. A local like Fred has paid his taxes and he only ask that CDA take the money from the compensation when paid instead of taking away his livelihood which he loves so much. CDA says they don't know when Fred will be paid. That is the problem but it is not a problem that Fred can control.

And it isn't fair. That is the problem. Hopefully, CDA will be

part of the solution, a fair solution, and not part of the problem. Hopefully, we can save Seaspray Marine and a hardworking local businessman like Fred Nosek.

In closing, I hope to see CDA accept Fred's proposal and work with DPL on a settlement to close Mr. Nosek's loan. Give Fred all his titles back so he could continue doing his business stress-free from CDA and continue to do his best in serving our ailing tourism industry.

Times are hard enough. We need to support the tourism industry and those who cater them. They are the ones on the frontline serving our guests, trying hard to satisfy them and hope that these guests become repeat customers or advertise their services by word of mouth.

Remember that the private sector keeps the government alive by paying taxes. To have better times we must try to find solutions and not hurt the ones that help contribute to the economy, even if it just a little. Fred's business is small but eventually, knowing Fred, he will expand it if the better times arrive. Businesses and the people of the CNMI will bring this to reality and not the government alone. We should be a team and work toward this goal. Therefore, I ask CDA and DPL to settle this matter that Fred Nosek is owed. If not, I hope our legislators will step in.

Patrick M. Ulechong

Kagman 3, Saipan

A nudge from Tina

With much interest I read Tina Sablan's letter to the editor in the Variety on Wednesday, March 19.

Ms. Sablan said that there were now 11 initiatives to amend the Commonwealth's Constitution. I must admit to knowing nothing about the Constitution, and thus have some reading to do. However, it strikes me that this is a rather large number of initiatives in a rather short period time.

I've been under the impression that amendments to the Constitution are generally few in number, occurring to make major changes in the way a country is governed. I sure would appreciate a listing of the proposed amendments with some comment on the likely effects they might have on how we conduct our lives here on Saipan (I.e. pros and cons).

I agree with Ms. Sablan when she calls for public hearings. The Commonwealth owes it to itself to encourage discussion and debate

so that the Legislature can be careful to carry out the will of the people—all of the people. I've noticed a tendency for meetings and presentations on Saipan to be last-minute affairs without much prior notice; consequently there is very little time for people to weigh in on the issues. Proposed amendments deserve the utmost of scrutiny and lively debate; a time for the light of transparency.

It's time for our elected officials to exhibit real leadership and to be transparent in all the processes of legislation and for government policies, procedures, plans and programs. Might someone on Capital Hill take this project on and provide the citizenry with accurate and timely information concerning these amendment initiatives?

Thanks for nudging your fellow legislators, Ms. Sablan.

Perry Conner

As Matuis

Dancing with wolves

Here we go again. The hype that seemingly died down when S.2483 was not passed took a sharp turn last March 10 when new omnibus bill, S.2739, was introduced. Guest workers' beacon of hope is brightly shining again and of course, this did not make the anti-federalization gang happy. We all know that federal takeover is forthcoming. By now, we've heard about the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and HANMI representatives' trips to Washington DC to do cold calls on people and offices they thought would help their cause. People there listened but if they think they would change the course of fate after few visits, I don't think so. Take it or not, federal takeover will happen.

On the local scene, enter Deane Siemer. She met with some Filipino guest workers recently. Some called it a "secret meeting" because only few people knew about it but some of those who attended claim it's not. My impression of Ms. Siemer is someone who is anti-federalization. She is pro 15-108 so I thought she probably likes the guest workers to go home. Why then is she meeting with the guest workers? Rumor is that there will be an offer of CNMI residency for the guest workers. Then there is the proposed bill by Tina Sablan. It will not offer residency but an additional classification for guest workers, something that is more realistic.

It seems that there are two separate efforts currently being done. Each effort takes different directions but appears to have one purpose—help the guest workers. As a guest worker, I'm a happy camper now because all of sudden I see people even from opposing sides wanting to help me. But I tend to analyze things before I take the road I'll follow. I can believe that Ms. Siemer's intention to help the guest workers is pure if she can give me direct answers to my questions. Who is paying you and whoever is helping you? How can you specifically help us? What is your motive?

For us guest workers, let's be careful on who we pick for a partner. We might be dancing with the wolves. Peace to all!






Irene N. Tantiado

Capital Hill, Saipan

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds: 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds: 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲84° ▼75°	▲84° ▼74°	▲84° ▼75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Clear	▲86 ▼69
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼74
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲87 ▼78
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87 ▼75
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼78

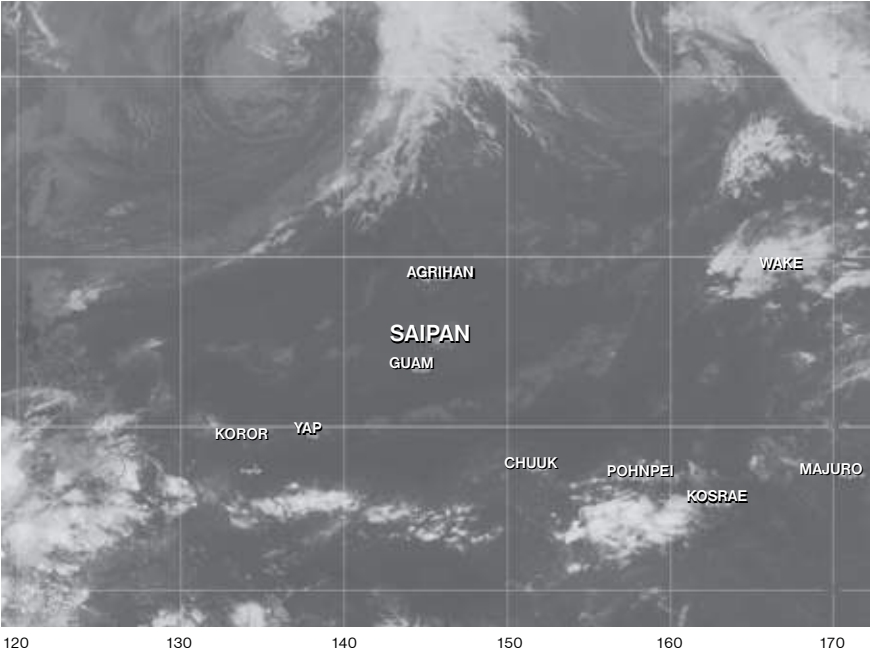
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲73 ▼62
Beijing	Cloudy	▲54 ▼41
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲78 ▼70
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲82 ▼71
London	Rain/Snow	▲45 ▼36
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼52
Manila	Cloudy	▲89 ▼75
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲63 ▼49
Miami	Showers	▲80 ▼70
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲44 ▼34
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲57 ▼42
Paris	Rain	▲43 ▼31
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼45
Rome	Showers	▲51 ▼46
Salem	Showers	▲50 ▼32
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲64 ▼43
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲65 ▼39
Tokyo	Showers	▲59 ▼39
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲57 ▼40

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
01:30AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
07:43AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
01:59PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
07:40PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front located near the northwestern-most corner of the discussion area extends from 25N133E to beyond 130E at 21N. Scattered showers are found within 150 miles of the front. Another cold front extends from near 25N169E TO 21N168E to 18N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along and ahead of the front within an area encompassed by a line that runs from 17N169E to 19N162E to 25N168E TO 25N176E back to 17N169E. A surface trough stretches from EQ155E to 15N155E. Converging trade winds near and east of the trough are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between 152E and 159E from 1N to 6N.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:21AM	6:28PM
Saturday	6:20AM	6:28PM
Sunday	6:19AM	6:28PM
Monday	6:18AM	6:28PM
Tuesday	6:18AM	6:29PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	06:03PM	05:42AM
Saturday	06:51PM	06:18AM
Sunday	07:40PM	06:53AM
Monday	08:29PM	07:29AM
Tuesday	09:20PM	08:08AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 16, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letter to the Editor

Promulgation of regulations for PL 15-23

Congratulations to Mr. Diego Songsong on your appointment as Secretary of Public Works. It's a big job and I wish you good luck!

I am not sure if this appeal should be sent to DPW or CUC, but in either case I feel the message is necessary, if our residents are to help with our power problems.

Saipan has a critical problem with providing reliable electrical power to its population. WOW, is that an understatement?! Public Law 15-23 might help with this crisis if regulations, i.e. guidelines, were written to assist the energy-conscious public in taking advantage of this law.

PL 15-23 allows producers of electricity from alternative energy sources to feed their excess power back in to the grid and thus reduce their power costs. I would like to do this, but I cannot because the regulations for PL 15-23 have never been published, even in a draft form.

Public Law 15-23 became law in August of 2006. Where are the regulations? If we are serious in wanting to decrease our dependency on Middle East oil and bring down our costs for power, then the individual businesses and homeowners need to have the incentive to do so. We have a longstanding law that provides an incentive for using alternative energy sources, but is unusable because no regulations have been promulgated.

Can somebody tell me which agency, CUC or DPW, is not fulfilling its obligation to the public?

When governments are unable to resolve big problems like our unreliable power supply, individuals or non-profit organizations can take up the slack, if only they are given the tools to do so. For example, if you are a young married couple planning to build your first home, wouldn't it be prudent planning to consider a means by which that new home is energy self-sufficient? Most people planning to build a new home must borrow money, i.e. have a mortgage, to do so. Wouldn't it be appropriate to include the cost of energy self-sufficiency in that mortgage loan? My estimate is that most single family dwellings aiming for energy independence could be built by adding less than \$10,000 to the total cost. Most mortgages are for 20, 25, or 30 years. This would mean adding less than \$50 per month to your 20-year mortgage payment and never having to pay for unreliable, centrally generated electricity. Plus, when your mortgage is paid off, your electricity is free. No power outages.

Enabling our citizenry to solve problems is a responsibility of the government. The Legislature did their part. They originated the law. The Governor did his part. He signed the legislation in to law. Some government agency in the Executive Branch has failed. Is it CUC or DPW? If the answer is DPW, I hope, Mr. Songsong, you make the promulgation of regulations for PL 15-23 a top priority. The energy-concerned people of Saipan are waiting.

If someone out there knows what the hang-up is on producing these regulations, my e-mail is ludwick@itecnmi.com

Roger N. Ludwick
Sadog Tasi



Carmen Safeway
SUPERMARKET
OPEN DAILY 6:00AM (MONDAY-SUNDAY)



MARCH 20-23, 2008

NEW ARRIVAL!
JAPAN FOOD /
GROCERIES
PREMIUM BEERS

WE WELCOME WIC FOOD INSTRUMENT AND NAP FOOD STAMPS

EASTER APPRECIATION SALE

 Leg Quarter 33# \$22⁹⁹ /cs.	 Pork Spareribs 20# \$13⁹⁹ /cs.	 Beef Spareribs 20# \$17⁹⁹ /cs.	 Turkey Wings 30# \$27⁹⁹ /cs.
 Whole Chicken 30# \$34⁹⁹ /cs.	 Sapporo Ichiban Case 21 ct. \$7⁹⁹	 Charmin Toilet Tissue 24 Rolls \$8⁹⁹	 Bud / Budlight (Warm) 24/12 oz. \$22⁹⁹ /cs.

GROCERY

 Ox & Palm Corned Beef 11.5 \$1⁹⁹	 Hormel Corned Beef Hash 15 oz. \$1⁷⁹	 Sugar Granulated 2 kg. \$1⁵⁰
 Folgers Coffee 39 oz. \$6⁴⁹	 Vienna Sausage 9 oz. \$1³⁵	 Spam Hot/Spicy 12 oz. \$1⁸⁸

FROZEN

 Pike Mackarel (Sanma) \$3⁷⁹ /pk.	 Bar S Frank 99¢ ea.	 Tilapia 99¢ /lb.
 Beef Shortribs US Choice Reg/Thick \$3⁶⁹ /lb.	 Beef Ribeye Commercial \$3⁶⁹ /lb.	 Picnic Ham Smoke \$1⁷³ /lb.

PRODUCE

 US Yellow Onion 47¢ /lb.	 Brown Potato 65¢ /lb.
 Local Kentucky Beans 99¢ /lb.	 Netted Garlic \$1¹⁶ /lb.

THE BAKE / DELI SHOPPE

Oven Fresh Bakery

Wheat Pullman Bread \$1⁸⁵	
French Bread \$1⁵⁰	
Baked Chicken Whole \$7⁰⁰	

THE LIQUOR SHOPPE

The Largest Selection of Wine & Liquor

Japan Sochu 750 ml \$10⁰⁷		Marques De Caceres Red Wine \$14²⁰	
Beringer Founders Estate Sauvignon Blanc \$14³⁹		Montego Bay Rum 750 ml. \$16⁵¹	

Tel. 234-6230 BEACH ROAD, CHALAN KANOA • STORE HOURS: Monday-Saturday 6:00am-9:00pm • Sunday 6:00am-7:00pm
 *While Supplies Last • We Reserve The Right to Limit Quantities • Foodstamp Shoppers Welcome • We are not responsible for typographical errors.

Repair work at power plant results in outages

A radiator problem yesterday at Power Plant 1 required Engine

No. 5 to be shut down for the mechanical and electrical staff to

perform necessary repairs. The repairs were immediately initi-

ated after the problem was identified early in the morning.



HEADSTART TRAINING

CNMI Head Start teachers, Head Start Program director Keiko Yamagata and Head Start site coordinator Bobbie Pangelinan take a short break during a meeting at the Napu room of the Pacific Islands Club Thursday. The meeting, which was attended by almost 50 teachers, focused on the assessment of their creative curriculum to make sure that it is consistent with the Head Start Program Performance Standards and also to sharpen the skills of the teachers. The event was part of the Public School System's annual Statewide Professional Development Program for school 2007-2008.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT • P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for the **RUNWAY 7/25 REHABILITATION** at the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PACKAGE 2, Phase 1, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-50/53** will be received at the office of the ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, until **2:00 p.m., Friday, April 4, 2008**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of: Connection of storm drainage pipe to the new water reservoir, excavation through parallel Taxiway "A", demolishing and filling of the existing reservoir site; conversion of Taxiway "A" into a temporary runway including removal to taxiway lights and installation of runway lights, and storm drainage system.

The project is being financed by funds from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bid in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the Phase 1 project in its entirety shall be **Three Hundred Sixty (360) calendar days**. Liquidated damages for each phase shall be in accordance with G-100-3.4. The Contractor shall be assessed liquidated damages for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-25 of the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents, including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set CD-Rom of plan documents. This amount is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, U.S. postal money order, or cashiers check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA CONFERENCE ROOM, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 17, 2008** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to CPA, in writing to the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at least seven (7) days in advance for answers at this pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of \$50,000 or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid proposal price of the Phase 1 total construction amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA
Acting Executive Director

Date: February 29, 2008

Possible Prior Service benefits

The following individuals or their surviving spouse may be eligible for Prior Service benefits. If you or your deceased spouse's name is listed below and you worked for the U.S. Navy or Trust Territory Government for five or more years before July 1, 1968, call the Prior Service Office at 322-9753 only on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 8am and noon.

If your name is listed below and you are still working for the government or private sector, please do not call until you retire. Previous lists were published on March 5,

March 9, March 13, March 17, and March 20, 2008. Visit the Archives section of www.saipantribune.com to check previous lists.

■ Taisacan, Jesus Saturday
■ Taisacan, LeonInos
■ Taitano, Antonio M
■ Taitano, Maximo K
■ Taitano, Vicente M
■ Takai, Antonio D
■ Taman, Juan F
■ Taman, Julian N
■ Taman, Niebes N
■ Taro, Sabina
■ Tarope, Jose T
■ Tebuteb, Dionicio W
■ Tenorio, Eugenio V
■ Tenorio, Manuel S
■ Tenorio, Maria Sablan

■ Tenorio, Rita
■ Tenorio, Santiago C
■ Teregeyo, Joaquin
■ Teregeyo, Vicente M
■ Torres, Francisca A
■ Torres, Vicente C
■ Toves, Leonardo
■ Toves, Luis
■ Toves, Rita S
■ Towai, Rioky
■ Tsuchiyama, Maria S
■ Tudela, Francisco LG
■ Villagomez, Felix
■ Villagomez, Lucia A
■ Villagomez, Manuel S
■ Villagomez, Raphael G
■ Villagomez, Thomas S
■ Wabol, Jesus
■ Warakai, Francisco O
■ Wesley, Margarita C

HANDS

From Page 11

issue and my analogy.

The Legislature is proposing to borrow \$3 million (D. Amendment to Section 6: (d) of H.L.I. No. 16-3) from the interest of the "MPLT funds" as collateral or guaranteed payment to the bank. The \$3 million will be used to rehabilitate or fix CUC power plants. When the power plants are rehabilitated, they will be privatized. The NMI descent, through their MPLT funds' interest, would continue to pay the bank for the loan, even if CUC is already privatized.

Here is what I believe is wrong with this whole idea. The NMI descent and the non-NMI descent will be paying their utility consumption at the same rate to the privately owned power plant. There is no special rate for the NMI descent even if it was their money that rehabilitated CUC. The math here is not quite correct!

My question is, "What is in it for the NMI descent?"

This is my analogy. Jose borrowed money from the bank to buy a car. Jose purchased the

As a result of these repairs, the power plant was not able to generate the required electrical power to adequately meet island demand, requiring the implementation of load shedding.

While these repairs continue, CUC said this pre-announced rotating power outage schedule will be followed:

10:00-12:00 Kiya 1: Lateral

Joeten Dandan Commercial Complex: (CUC, Joeten Grocery, PHI Pharmacy, CNMI Revenue & Tax, Department of Public Lands, Zoning Board) Kannat Tabla and the Stanford Hotel area and the Saipan International Airport

12:00-2:00 Feeder 4: Second Partial

Mobil Gas Station to Kagman and Papago

2:00-4:00 Kiya 2: Second Partial

San Antonio Village, Afetnas,

Koblerville, As Gonno, Coral Ocean

4:00-6:00 Kiya 4: Second Partial

Mount Carmel south to portions of Chalan Kanoa and Chalan Kiya

6:00-8:00 Feeder No. 1: Laterals

Anaks Condos, Marina Heights Business Complexes Upper China Town lateral, Upper MIHA lateral

8:00-10:00 Feeder No. 2: Second Partial

Fishing Base, Garapan south to San Jose Intersection

10:00-11:00 Feeder 7: Entire Grid

Lower Base Industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi

As soon as the CUC is capable to provide the sufficient electrical generation to meet the island demands, this schedule will no longer be required. This schedule assumes that no additional engine problems transpire during this emergency repair. **(CUC)**

car. Jose continues to pay the bank from his own money. Jose gives his sister Maria the car. Maria makes a taxicab business with the car. Jose and Mr. Sum ride on the taxicab and pay the same taxi rate. Where is the beef for Jose? This is not quite right!

I wish to offer this idea as alternative using MPLT funds to rehabilitate or fix CUC before it is privatized:

First, correct or fix the CUC salary problem. Create a justified salary scale for its employees based on qualification(s), position descriptions, and duties and responsibilities. This is simply called "Equal pay for equal work based on merit."

I would strongly recommend that the Legislature review the requirement of the law that authorized CUC to become a full autonomous agency. It requires that first, CUC must promulgate a salary based scale that it must submit to the Legislature for approval before it can achieve full autonomy. This has not been done. Therefore, CUC pays its employees' salaries arbitrarily. You know, its like the old saying, "Its not what you know, but who you know."

CUC, PSS and Ports Authority all have the same law require-

ments in order that they realize full autonomy from the central government. PSS and Ports Authority have accomplished that provision of law in 1987/8. They are full autonomous agencies of the CNMI Government.

I know that if CUC creates its salary pay scale, and pay its employees accordingly, it would identify huge salary overpayment to its employees. Use the excess from the salary overpayment as collateral to borrow against. I will not be surprised if the excess in the over-the-cap salary is more than \$3 million a year.

So please, don't use the NMI descent money for CUC'S rehabilitation for privatization. Once again, the stakeholder (customers) for CUC is comprised of all people living in the CNMI, and not NMI-descent only. Let's not fix problems by creating another problem.

MPLT funds is for NMI descent with a quarter Carolinian/Chamorro blood. Pay NMI-descent landowners whose lands were taken by the government for public purpose. It meets the constitutional mandate for use of the MPLT monies.

Juan I. Tenorio
As Matuis, Saipan

Nutrition and colorectal cancer

By LOUISE OAKLEY, RD
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Did you know that March is Colorectal Cancer month?

Colorectal cancer is cancer that forms in the tissues of the colon (the longest part of the large intestine) or cancer that forms in the tissues of the rectum (the last several inches of the large intestine before the anus). It is estimated that there will be approximately 108,070 new cases of colon cancer and 40,740 of rectal cancer in the United States in 2008. Estimated deaths are 49,960 for colon and rectal combined.

According to the Department of Public Health's Vital Statistics Office there have been 74 diagnoses of colorectal cancer since 1994 in the CNMI (73% male; 27% female). Almost 50 % of those 74 cases are from Chamorro descent.

No one knows the exact causes of colorectal cancer, but we do know that people with certain *risk factors* are more likely than others to develop colorectal cancer. Something that may increase a person's chance of developing a disease is called a risk factor.

Some of the risk factors for colorectal cancer include:

- Age over 50
- Colorectal *polyps*: Polyps are growths on the inner wall of the colon or rectum,
- Family history of colorectal cancer

- Cigarette smoking
- Diet: Research suggest that diets high in fat (especially animal fat) and low in calcium, folate and fiber may increase the risk of colorectal cancer. As well, some studies suggest that people who eat a diet very low in vegetables and fruit may have a higher risk of colorectal cancer.

Research also shows that if everyone ate a healthy diet, was physically active and maintained/achieved a healthy weight, the number of cancer cases would be reduced by one third. According to the American Institute for Cancer Research's *Second Expert Report, Food, Nutrition, Physical Activity and the Prevention of Cancer: a Global Perspective*, the following recommendations can reduce your risk of developing colorectal cancer and all cancers in general:

Be as lean as possible without becoming underweight.

Maintaining and/or achieving a healthy weight is one of the most important things you can do to lower your cancer risk. Not only does it make us feel better mentally and physically, it also reduces our risk for other chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

Be physically active for at least 30 minutes everyday.

Research shows that any form of physical activity can reduce

our cancer risk. It also helps to keep our hormone levels healthy, which is important because having high levels of certain hormones can increase our cancer risk.

Avoid sugary drinks.

Limit consumption of energy-dense foods (particularly processed foods high in added sugar, or low in fiber, or high in fat)—Sugary drinks include soft drinks and juice flavored drinks. Water is the best alternative. Even 100% fruit juice can contain a lot of sugar and it is best to limit this to one glass a day. Energy-dense foods tend to be processed foods with added sugar and fat, resulting in more calories per ounce.

Eat a variety of vegetables, fruits, whole grains and legumes such as beans.

Plant-based foods help keep the body healthy and strengthen our immune system. They are also good sources of *phytochemicals* which reduce cell damage that can lead to cancer. Plant-based foods provide us with fiber which is the "roughage" or undigestible part of plant food. Fiber helps to move the end-products of digestion quickly through the bowels. One theory is the less time these end-products sit in the colon, the less likely these cells are exposed to potentially harmful compounds.

Limit consumption of red meats (beef, pork, lamb) and avoid processed meats.

Processed meats refer to meats preserved by smoking, curing, salting or by the addition of preservatives. Examples include SPAM, corned beef, hot dogs, sausages, bacon. Research shows we can eat up to 18 ounces a week of red meat without raising cancer risk (a 3-ounce portion is about the size of a deck of cards). Cancer risk starts to increase with any portion of processed meat consumed.

If consumed at all, limit alcoholic drinks to two for men and one for women a day.

There is strong evidence that any type of alcohol increases the risk of cancer, including colorectal cancer in men and women. It is particularly harmful when combined with smoking.

Limit consumption of salty foods and foods processed with salt (sodium).

Foods such as processed meats, canned soups, fast foods, Ajinomoto, soy sauce and oyster sauce are very high in salt. Take the salt shaker off the table and prepare foods with herbs and spices instead of salt.

Louise Oakley, RD is a registered dietitian at the Division of Public Health.

GUANGDONG HARDWARE

GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BA ITO?

LUMBERS

	Regular	Utility (Forming)
2x4x12	\$4.50/Pc	\$3.80/Pc
2x4x14	\$5.50/Pc	\$4.30/Pc
2x4x16	\$6.10/Pc	\$5.75/Pc
2x4x18	\$6.90/Pc	\$6.30/Pc
2x4x20	\$7.40/Pc	\$6.90/Pc

Galvalume roof tin (Gauge 26)
from Korea, better quality, long time no rusty

Plyform (5/8"):

Red/Black-\$24.90 • Phenolic Black-\$26.90

Thin-Set Mortar:

\$9.80 Custom (c.cure), gray, from U.S.
\$8.80 Nicbond, 55lbs/bag

OVERSIZED AND DAMAGED MAHOGANY LUMBERS

35% OFF

U.S. UTILITY LUMBERS
Regular/Treated 2"x6"/2"x8"

20% OFF

HOLLOW BLOCKS (CMU)

4"	\$0.50/pc
6"	\$0.60/pc
8"	\$0.70/pc

NEW ARRIVAL

M-BORD:

1/4" - \$17.50 • 3/8" - \$24.50

CEILING/WALL LAMPS

30% OFF

NEW ARRIVAL CERAMIC TILES

TILE ADHESIVE HENRY 314

\$13.00/gal

Textured high proof

\$17.00/gal

Bondiflex, water proof

\$18.00/gal

Special price for damaged items, from

15% to 50% off

Plywood 25% off
Mahogany lumber 35% off
Metal stud/track \$4/pc
Door/louver/screen 35% off
White plywood \$6.00/pc
Tie wire G20/G22 \$0.4/lb
10' pvc white pipe 4" \$12/pc
Ceiling tile 2"x4" \$3.00/pc
Rope \$2/pc
US Lumber 15% off
Roof tin 15% off
Shower room 35% off
Window 35% off
Cement board \$4/pc
Downspout \$8/pc
Square bar \$4/pc
Formica \$5/pc
Ceramic tile \$0.3/pc

**Major construction materials
cheapest on island!**

**Never satisfied
until you are**

**ISLAND LOWEST
PRICES GUARANTEED
FOR MAJOR ITEMS**

P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688

FAX: 288-4488

E-mail: gddc@pticom.com

Business hours:

Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



**MICROL
TOYOTA**

SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

2004 RAV-4 4DR. 4WD

Auto, Beige

Stock: U07-007T

License: ACB-455

Mileage: 41649

\$14,999



USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE
-------	------	-------	--------	---------	-------	-----------	-------

TOYOTA SEDANS

U08-017P	2002	AVALON 4DR.	AUTO	34812	BEIGE	ABW-469	14,999
----------	------	-------------	------	-------	-------	---------	--------

GM CARS

R07-031F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	68515	YELLOW	ABY-169	7,999
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	7,999
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	7,899
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	7,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	9,999

LEXUS

R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO		IVORY	ADU-502	29,999
----------	------	-------------	------	--	-------	---------	--------

TOYOTA TRUCKS

R07-036B	2003	TACOMA 4X4 D/CAB	AUTO	85270	RED	ABR-739	15,999
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	11,899
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	12,499

OTHER CARS & TRUCKS

U08-007P	2005	HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4DR.	AUTO	48717	BLACK	ACE-248	11,599
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	50416	SILVER	ADF-401	8,599
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	8,599
U07-108P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	45099	SILVER	ADF-431	8,599
U07-109P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	43869	SILVER	ADF-371	8,599
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	15,799
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENNIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	7,999
CONSIGNMENT	2001	FORD ESCAPE	AUTO	39530	BLUE	ABW-458	10,899

VANS

U07-096T	2000	SIENNA XLE	AUTO	92766	BEIGE	ACO-561	7,999
R08-001F	2004	SIENNA LE	AUTO	164483	WHITE	ABY-567	12,999

SPORT UTILITY

U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAGNE	ABY-153	12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	12,799
U07-082T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 2WD	AUTO	68919	GRAY		12,599



MICROL TOYOTA

Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose

Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | www.microlsaipan.com





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of the Green Meadow School pose with their medals after the P.G.F.C. Regional Competition at the Marianas High School on March 8, 2008.

Green Meadow students sparkle in PGFC meet

Students of the Green Meadow School hauled several medals during the P.G.F.C. Regional Competition held at the Marianas High School on March 8, 2008. The following are the many awards the school's students received after the competition:

FINALS

3-5 Division:

3rd Place: Bronze Medal: Duo
1. Ian Lemuel Elnas
2. Gene Rei De Leon

K- 2 Division:

2nd Place: Silver Medal: Choral Speaking
1. Mary Grace Briones
2. Chekaina Veil Coloma
3. Jerique Dayne Suba
4. Kathleen Trinidad
5. Aira Usi

4th Place: Ribbon: Humorous Interpretation
Keandre Phillip Deseo

4th Place: Ribbon: Dramatic

Interpretation
Bert Magallano

5th Place: Ribbon: Reader's Forum
Jerique Dayne Suba

SEMI- FINALS:

1st Place: Ribbon: Reader's Forum
Jerique Dayne Suba
5th Place: Ribbon: Reader's Forum
Kyle Christopher Bautista

3-5 Division:

1st Place: Duo C:
Ian Lemuel Elnas
Gene Rei de Leon

2nd Place: Choral Speaking C:
1. Danielle Coloma
2. Ian Lemuel Elnas
3. Gene Rei de Leon
4. Rozelle Ann Loyola
5. Kaela Mae Valencia

4th Place: H.I.B: Piolo Gregorio
4th Place: Reader's Forum F
Ma. Fatima Briones

5th Place: D.I.B
Ma. Theresa Dalusong

Coach: Teacher Ellen Alejo

K-2 Division: (Pre-school- Grade 2)

1st Place : Readers Forum C
Kyle Christopher Bautista
1st Place : Readers Forum D
Jerique Dayne Suba
2nd Place: D.I.A
Chekaina Veil Coloma
2nd Place: H.I.B
Keandre Phillip Deseo
2nd Place: Choral Speaking B
1. Mary Grace Briones
2. Chekaina Coloma
3. Jerique Dayne Suba
4. Kathleen Trinidad
5. Aira Usi
3rd Place: Duo A
1. Pionnah Rosej Gregorio
2. Keanno Stevinz Rabe
3rd Place: D.I.B
Bert Magallano
4th Place: Readers Forum F
Angel Sean Legaspi
4th Place: Readers Forum D

Kathleen Trinidad
4th Place: Duo A
Johara Ann Loyola
Kiana Joyce Valencia
4th Place: Choral Speaking C
1. Alexandra Belle Dalusong
2. Johara Ann Loyola
3. Angel Mae Oropesa
4. Deirdre Mae Rosete
5. Kiana Joyce Valencia
4th Place: Choral Speaking B
1. Jhanylin Cruz
2. Claire Marzan
3. Mikee Mendoza
5th Place: Readers Forum F
Tianna Villagomez
5th Place: Choral Speaking C
1. Jolo Berueco
2. Prudencio Cabrera
3. Keandre Deseo
4. Bert Magallano
5. Joshua Saturno

Coaches:

K3- Ms. Zeny Valeros
k4- Ms. Grace Rosete
k5- Ms. Jehan Mangahis
1st & 3rd Grade - Ms. Ellen Alejo
2nd Grade- Ms. Marilyn Divino

Lagare graduates from yeoman school

Saipan-born Joseph Bryan E. Lagare has finished his yeoman training and is now undergoing submarine schooling in Groton, Connecticut.

Lagare, a graduate of Kagman High School, graduated from Yeoman "A" School in Meridian, Mississippi, on Feb. 22, 2008, after about three months of training.

"The next day, I left Meridian and arrived in Providence, Connecticut where the duty driver picked us up from the airport and drove us to Groton, Connecticut for my submarine school," said Lagare in an e-mail provided by his parents to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Lagare went through boot camp at the Illinois Recruit Training Center in Great Lakes and yeoman training at the Naval Technical Training Center in Meridian, Mississippi. He is currently undergoing Basic Enlisted Submarine training at



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joseph Bryan E. Lagare is presented his certificate after completing yeoman training in Meridian, Mississippi, on Feb. 22, 2008.

the Naval Submarine School in Groton.

He is with the U.S. Navy as an Enlisted 03.

After graduation from Kagman High School, Lagare had a short stint with the Commonwealth Development Authority as an administrative assistant, and also tried his hand last year as technician assistant at PC Outlet.

His father, Miguel B. Lagare, says his son plans to pursue an electronic engineering or IT degree, with the possibility of going on to law school.

"He'll be coming home after graduation from submarine school for vacation sometime next month before deployment," said Miguel B. Lagare.

Lagare's mother is Bernardina E. Lagare, of Lasam, Cagayan Valley in the Philippines, while his father is from Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, also in the Philippines. (*Jayvee Vallejera*)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of '83 reunion reminder

The Marianas High School's Class of 1983 Reunion Committees would like to remind everyone that March 31 is just around the corner. Those who have not purchased event tickets are reminded to purchase one on or before March 31, 2008 to avoid paying an extra \$5 at the door.

Contact any of the Steering Committee Members for details: Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665; Viola Kaipat at 483-0214; Ed Camacho at 483-5262; Jane Tudela at 234-9571; Frances Mildred Cruz at 483-0995; Ester Teregeyo at 236-9777; Ben Sablan at 287-1480; or Diego Songsong at 287-4300. (*PR*)

MHS Class of '88 meeting

Members of the Marianas High School Class of 1988 are being reminded that there will be a meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2008, at 6:30pm, at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in As Lito behind Saipan International School. All classmates are encourage to attend this important meeting.

For more information, contact Lillian Lizama Tudela at 287-3742 or Dennis Villagomez at 287-4689. (*PR*)

Oleai Elementary School registration

The Oleai Elementary School said that the registration for all incoming Kindergartens for school year 2008-09 will be from April 1 to April 30, 2008. Students entering Kindergarten must have been born between Sept. 1, 2002, and Aug. 31, 2003.

For new first grade and transfer students (grades 1 to 6th), registration will be in June to July 2008.

■ Documents required for registration are:

■ Birth certificate (from the court)

■ School entrance health certificate (updated)

■ Current school accident/health insurance coverage/Medic-aid card (updated)

■ Residency map

■ Legal adoption/guardianship documents (if applicable)

■ Valid CNMI entry permit (if applicable)

Oleai Elementary School zone covers the areas bounded by south of Naked Fish Restaurant on Beach Road, Gualo Rai, Chalan Lualau, Chalan Kiya (golf course), bottom of As Terlaje Hill, north of Island Market to Falughula and San Jose (Oleai).

For more information, call the school at 664-3942. (*PR*)

Petition to graduate deadline extended

The Northern Marianas College has extended the deadline for the submission of petitions to graduate for Spring 2008. The new deadline is March 28, 2008. Any questions or concerns regarding the Spring 2008 graduation can be addressed to Rosaline Cepeda, Acting Director of the Office of Admissions and Records, at 234-5498 ext 1540 or email rosalinec@nmcnet.edu.

Live-fire training on Farallon today

The Emergency Management Office and the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam said that the U.S. military would be conducting live-fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla today, March 21, from 7am to 12am.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (*EMO*)

English placement tests set

The Northern Marianas College will be administering the English Placement Tests on the following dates:

■ April 2, 2008, 9am – 12pm, Room: D-1

■ April 4, 2008, 4pm – 7pm, Room: D-1

Bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (M-F, 9am - 4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment. For more information, call the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2000 or 1242. (*NMC*)

Flame Tree Arts Festival registration opens

Registration is open March 17-April 17, 2008, for the 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival. Registration forms are available at the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture on Capital Hill, Saipan. Registration costs are \$650/food and business vendors, \$350/non-profit, \$150/artists, and \$100/information. The Flame Tree Arts Festival will be held April 24-27, 2008, at Civic Center and is Micronesia's largest annual arts and culture celebration. For more information about the Flame Tree Arts Festival, contact CCAC at 670-322-9982/3 or e-mail mariana-sarts@pticom.com.

Pacific

US alarmed by China's 'no strings' Pacific aid

Other donor nations seek good governance

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The United States is to hold high-

PACIFIC BRIEFS

High rate of cervical cancer in Vanuatu

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (Vanuatu News/PIR)—A preliminary finding on cervical cancer screening survey has placed Vanuatu as one of the country with the highest cervical cancer rate in the world. Out of every 500 women that are screened in Vanuatu, 45 will have abnormal cells that have the potential to become cancer," Director of the Ministry of Health Myriam Abel said. Ms Abel said if mothers are not treated it is likely that 50 mothers out of every 500 women will die. The cancer screening survey here in Port Vila was conducted by Professor Ian Fraser, who is one of the world's famous professor, led a team to inventing Human Papilloma Virus vaccine.

Niue, Tokelau among worst spam offenders

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia, March 19, 2008) — A security software firm says Pacific nations Niue and Tokelau are among the worst offenders for relaying spam per head of population. Spam is unsolicited email, often commercial in nature. The company, Sophos, says Niue and Tokelau came in second and third respectively behind British territory Pitcairn Island in its survey of countries emitting spam during the last quarter of last year.

The survey did not look at where spam originated, but which countries passed on the unsolicited messages. Last year, security software firm McAfee reported the territories' domains, and those of a number of other Pacific islands, were among the worst offenders in the world.

Tonga's King George to make first visit to China

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—Tongan King George V will make his first official visit to the People's Republic of China next month. In Beijing the king will meet the President of the People's Republic of China, Hu Jintao, the first meeting with the Chinese President since he became king [in 2006]. A reliable source confirmed this morning, that the main purpose of the visit is to reaffirm and strengthen the foreign relations between the Kingdom of Tonga and China. The visit will last not more than a week.

level talks with China to address concerns over Beijing's strategy of boosting ties with Pacific and other developing nations through a no-strings-attached aid program.

China has recently made

major diplomatic and economic inroads in the region by giving aid without imposing any conditions.

This strategy is in sharp contrast to that of the US, European Union and Japan as well as the

World Bank and the IMF, which often use aid as a leverage to improve human rights and promote other reforms.

US Deputy Assistant Secre-

tary of State, Thomas Christensen, says China's programmes could run counter to the efforts by the other donors to use targeted and sustainable aid to promote transparency and good governance.

He says the US wants China to harmonise its overseas investment and foreign assistance practices with those developed by international institutions like the IMF and World Bank.

China loans to Tonga come with strings attached

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Radio Tonga News/PIR)—The government hopes that the buildings to be built in downtown Nuku'alofa and nearby areas will be of today's modern standards.

Information received by Radio Tonga News from landowners in Kolofo'ou who live near the town area and ran businesses in the town area, say that government hopes the rebuilding of Nuku'alofa could see two to three story buildings being built.

Some of the landowners said the idea is that the owners make a loan each of about 300,000 pa'anga [US\$147,000] from the government loan from China. In the loan agreements, loans would be repaid over a period of 20-years with an interest rate of 5 percent and use of land as collateral.

However, one of the members of the working committee revealed that there has not been any discussions on the amount of 300,000-pa'anga loan as some have claimed.

Information acquired by Radio Tonga News also reveal there is a proposal that the construction workers will be brought in from China as well as the construction materials for the rebuilding.

According to one of the landowners and business owners on Salote Road said that he found difficulties with these suggestions and they were submitted late anyway.

He added that some of the business people had already procured loans from the banks and have already begun their rebuilding process.

He said that although most of the landowners and business owners had agreed to the suggestions during a meeting with the government working committee, deep down they did not agree with it because their rebuilding efforts would only be according to the finances they had access to.

In an explanation from one of the working committee members, about 99 percent of those at the meeting had agreed to the suggestions floated during the meeting.

In the meantime, he said that these suggestions were not confirmed as to whether they will be followed through with or not.

He added that people were not forced to build as suggested as this was only a meeting with the landowners and business owners in Nuku'alofa in the hope they could carry out the plans.



AUSTRALIAN VISIT

Jodie Foster poses with local children dressed as pirates during the red carpet, Thursday March 20, 2008 at Sea World on the Gold Coast, Australia for the world premiere of her new film "Nim's Island." Foster stars along side Abigail Breslin and Gerard Butler in the family adventure shot on the Gold Coast.

Celebrate life with your family to a new taste of exquisite food from Chef Kobayashi.



invites you to our

Grand Opening

on Easter Sunday, March 23, 2008.

11:00am – 2:00pm • 5:30pm – 10:00pm
Free give aways for lunch & dinner for kids

A sumptuous Pre-Opening lunch is available this Saturday, March 22, 2008 from 11:00am to 2:00pm with the following menu:

Sirloin Steak 10oz.....	\$19.00
Beef Stroganoff	15.00
Hamburger Steak with Cheese Penne....	12.00
Chicken Diavola.....	10.00
Japanese Style Chicken Curry.....	9.50
Mahi-Mahi Meuniere.....	9.50
Hamburger 8oz.....	8.50
Cheese Hamburger.....	8.75
Arrabiata Spaghetti.....	9.50

Above menu is served either with Salad, Bread or Rice

Located at the first floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe

'Inetnon Familia '08' celebrates Continental's 40th anniversary

HOUSTON—Hundreds of Continental Micronesia employees, former employees, retirees, former residents of the Micronesian islands and friends will be celebrating in Houston on April 12-13, Continental Micronesia's 40th anniversary as the leading airline in the Pacific. A special island style fiesta is planned in Houston to add to the fun and to get more people together who are far from home.

The first event is a Masters Weekend Golf Tournament which is a fundraiser for the big fiesta. This event takes place on Saturday, April 12, at Tour 18 beginning at 12:30pm. Single player fees are \$125 and a foursome is \$460. Package includes green fees, cart, range balls, lunch, one month membership to four golf courses, special competition prizes and lots more. There will also be a raffle drawing and silent auction to help raise additional funds. Dinner and awards presentation to follow the golf tournament. Details can be found on www.airmikefiesta.com.

The main event is on Sunday, April 13, at Alexander Deussen Park starting at 9am with the Island Fiesta. This fiesta will bring the island culture, friendship and more importantly, food to Houston. Tickets for the main event are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 2 – 12 years of age. Tickets can be purchased on www.airmikefiesta.com.

Live entertainment, kids events, a special softball tournament and island food will be plentiful at the fiesta. All are invited to attend. (*Continental*)

Island Snapshots



PTI DONATION

PTI Marketing Associate Brad Ruzsala poses with the award winning Manta Ray Concert Band before they departed for Guam en route to winning the Tumon Bay Music Festival.

GLENN SMITH



BIRTHDAY GIRL

Happy birthday greetings go out to Precious Pascual. Greetings come from the Ben family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



GLENN SMITH

PTI Marketing Associate Brad Ruzsala presents PTI long distance calling cards to Saipan Southern High School principal Pete Leau and band instructor William DeWitt before the award winning Manta Ray Concert Band departed for Guam en route to winning the Tumon Bay Music Festival.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

MINI NUTRITION FAIR

A child curiously looks at the various food groups displayed inside the food pyramid at the NMC CREES Expanded Food Nutrition Program booth during the Mini Nutrition Fair at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe Saturday morning. The event was done in observance of the 2008 Nutrition Month celebration.



DYS TRAINING

After two weeks of training, DYS Juvenile Detention officers complete their Correctional Direct Supervision training. Front row: DS instructor Floyd Masga, Naomi T. Santos, Jessica Wabol-Igisomar, Margaret Teigita, Kevin Iginoef, Ben Tagabuel, Joey Teregeyo, acting DCCA Secretary Melvin L.O. Faisao, and acting Operation supervisor Ricardo R. Rasa. Back row, Nadia Tagabuel, Sharmalynn Iginoif, Ken Kaipat and Steven Lisua. Not in photo, is acting DYS director Debra A. Inos.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BEAUTIFY CNMI

PAWS president and Beautify CNMI's Animal Welfare chair Katie Busenkell and Beautify CNMI's Parks & Trails Committee chair Ken Kramer give updates on the group's activities during the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly Tuesday meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Lani of PacificCare, standing, who celebrated her birthday March 12, 2008. She is shown here with Nona, Shiela, and Zeny.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



**MIURA LAWYERS**

Mark B. Hanson and Bruce Berline, defense lawyer of Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura, are swarmed by Japanese and local media for an interview outside the CNMI Superior Court in Susupe Wednesday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

**NFL REGIONAL MEET**

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A participant practices her speech at the corridor of Marianas High School during the National Forensics League Regional Competition Saturday.

**USNS SAFEGUARD**

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Oxygen Aviators are seen inside the USNS *Safeguard* T-ARS 50 while Capt. Edward Dickerson talks to the media Friday afternoon. The salvage ship arrived Friday morning to continue its two-day site surveying on Saipan.

**SENATE SESSION**

Sen. Luis Crisostimo, Senate Vice President Felix T. Mendiola and Sen. Paul Manglona read documents during a session at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill Wednesday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

HOUSE SESSION

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta and Rep. Christina M. Sablan read a bill during Wednesday's session at the House Chamber on Capital Hill.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

**STATENDAM VISIT**

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The 720-foot and 10-deck MS *Statendam* cruise ship is seen docked at the Port of Saipan Tuesday. *Statendam* is the fifth ship to bear the name in Holland America Line's 133-year history.

**GOOD FRIDAY TRADITION**

Saipan Mayor's Office staff Rey Bermudez, Patrick Celis and Department of Public Works' Rey Lisua smoothen the road to Mt. Tapochau on Wednesday in preparation for the traditional observance of Good Friday, when hundreds of Catholic devotees hike to the peak of the mountain.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

**TEEN TALK**

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Participants make warm fuzzy bags during a family group session of the first Teen Talk Youth Summit at the Chacha Oceanview Junior High School in Kagman Wednesday. The two-day event was hosted by the CNMI Public School System and Division of Youth Services.

Business

PTI rolls out Push 2 Talk

Pacific Telecommunications Inc. launched yesterday morning its latest product line, Push 2 Talk, a Marianas-wide radio communication system with cellular, text, and Web-enabled capabilities.

Held at the Tapochao Restaurant of the Saipan World Resort, the product launching was attended by officials and representatives of several island companies and the government, as well as several PTI officials and sales associates led by Marketing Manager Kathryn Barry.

This new state-of-the-art product offers radio and voice services in one phone and runs on PTI's CDMA data service for reliable

and quality connections.

PTI senior engineer Mike Watanabe said that Push 2 Talk gives PTI's business customers another tool to stay in touch with their customers, employees, families, and friends in both the CNMI and Guam. The phones are also capable of long distance calls.

Guests at yesterday's launching had the chance to test drive three phones under the Push 2 Talk system: the Motorola L7, the Motorola W385, and the Kyocera KX 440.

"Enhanced features include a web-based self-management platform. The system maintains contact lists and allows custom-

ers to easily add and delete users when needed," Watanabe said.

He emphasized that, with Push 2 Talk, people need not carry two phones—a radio and a cell phone—because Push 2 Talk handsets can easily handle both functions with just a push of a button.

"PTI has multiple plans to meet all business needs and, with PTI's superior voice quality there will be no need to carry two phones," he said.

PTI offers several Push 2 Talk plans that range from as low as \$25 a month (unlimited Push 2 Talk radio only) to \$120 a month (1,500 minute plan, with free 1,500 talk minutes, free local test

messaging, and free unlimited radio PTI Wave and Internet).

"Many plans include the ability to surf the Web and access PTI Mobile Wave, which keeps all the latest news, sports and entertainment only a few clicks away," said Watanabe.

PTI offers several phones that have Push 2 Talk capability and coverage is available in the CNMI and Guam for a complete four-island coverage.

PTI also gave away several raffle prizes during yesterday's launching.

For more information about PTI's products and services, call 682-4PTI or visit www.pticom.com. (Saipan Tribune)



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Guests at yesterday's launching had the chance to test drive three phones: the Motorola L7, the Motorola W385, and the Kyocera KX 440.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Shanghai index down more than 6 percent

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stock indexes fell in early trading Thursday as investors took a cue from overnight losses on Wall Street. China's benchmark Shanghai Composite Index was down 6.5 percent to 3,516.33 amid mounting worries over the likely impact of a U.S. recession on China's own booming economy. Hong Kong's blue chip Hang Seng index fell 4.4 percent to 20,896.14 after the market opened Thursday. Elsewhere in Asia, South Korea's Kospi Composite Index fell about 1.6 percent. Japanese markets are closed for the Vernal Equinox holiday. The Asian markets tracked weakness on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones industrial average fell 2.4 percent to 12,099.66 Wednesday.

Oil falls below \$102 on waning demand

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices extended their sharp retreat Thursday after data released the previous day showed demand for petroleum products is waning in the face of record high prices. The U.S. Energy Information Administration's weekly inventory report said Wednesday that overall consumption of oil and its products fell 3.2 percent over the last four weeks compared with the same period last year. Demand for gasoline fell 1 percent during the same period. The demand numbers in the report overshadowed data showing that supplies of crude oil grew less than expected last week, while gasoline and heating oil supplies fell. Light, sweet crude for May delivery dropped 56 cents to \$101.98 a barrel in Asian electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract fell \$5.96 to settle at \$102.54 a barrel Wednesday. Crude for April delivery declined \$4.94 to settle at \$104.48 a barrel before expiring.

Stocks decline after huge rally

NEW YORK (AP)—Stocks pulled back sharply Wednesday, erasing most of the previous session's big gains as investors grew concerned about the possibility that banks remain vulnerable to further problems from soured debt. The Dow Jones industrial average fell nearly 300 points after rising 420 on Tuesday. Some retrenchment was to be expected after the previous day's huge advance. But the decline also reflects investors' continuing uneasiness about the world's financial system and the U.S. economy. The Dow fell 293.00, or 2.36 percent, to 12,099.66. Broader stock indicators also declined. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 32.32, or 2.43 percent, to 1,298.42, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 58.30, or 2.57 percent, to 2,209.96.

Delta pilots nix arbitration overture

ATLANTA (AP)—Delta Air Lines Inc.'s pilots union rejected Wednesday the idea of submitting to arbitration with its counterpart at Northwest Airlines Corp. to break their impasse over integrating seniority lists as part of a possible combination of the carriers. "In short, there will be no binding arbitration," Lee Moak, head of Delta's pilots union, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. Pilot union leaders at Northwest had suggested in a memo to rank-and-file Northwest pilots on Tuesday that arbitration may be a way to break the deadlock. Traditionally, arbitration in these situations is binding. The memo said that "if management feels the time is now for consolidation, they would be wise to encourage both pilot groups to accept expedited arbitration."



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PTI employees led by Marketing Manager Kathryn Barry, second from left, pose for the *Saipan Tribune* after yesterday's launching of Push 2 Talk at the Tapochao Restaurant of the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

FHB warns Guam merchants of phone scam

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank is warning the public and its merchant customers about a phone scam involving a telemarketing company that has been calling merchants and identifying itself as First Hawaiian Bank.

The telemarketer, claiming to be calling from First Hawaiian Bank, informs the merchant that their credit card terminal equipment is about to be expired and can be renewed for \$99. They then proceed to request the merchant's bank account and routing number to have the monthly renewal charge deducted from their account.

As a reminder, First Hawaiian Bank said it does not request account number information, bank routing numbers, or a customer's PIN number by phone.

"The bank is reminding people who think that they have received a suspicious phone call to not sign up for any of the services offered by phone," FHB said.

If they suspect that they have received a fraudulent phone call, they should contact their banker, the nearest branch or call First Hawaiian Bank's 24-

Open a checking account online with FHB Direct

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank has launched FHB Direct, which offers clients the convenience of opening an FHB checking account online using one's personal computer 24/7. The secure, free, online service was announced by Don Horner, president and CEO of First Hawaiian Bank. The bank is the only local financial institution on Guam and CNMI offering an online account opening service.

FHB Direct lets consumers open a totally free, full-service bank checking account without ever going into a bank branch. The entire secure and easy process can be done in minutes. The customer may also sign up for free FHB Online which allows you the convenience of managing nearly all your banking accounts online anytime. The customer can transfer and monitor loan and deposit balances; see their ATM and credit card transactions; and view and print copies of their cancelled checks and checking account statements online. Bill payment service can also be added for a small fee.

"We appreciate that our customers lead busy lives and we continue to strive to make full-service online banking a reality," said Horner. "FHB Direct is a safe, fast and easy way to

open a checking account online using your home or office computer. Together with FHB Online, customers will enjoy the convenience of managing their finances safely and securely anytime, from anywhere they have internet access, including the comfort of their own home 24/7. FHB Direct and FHB Online are part of First Hawaiian's commitment to provide the most advanced online banking solutions for our customers."

First Hawaiian was the first bank in Hawaii to offer both eStatements and CheckImage, services that give customers online access to their account statements as well as images of cleared checks. First Hawaiian was also the first local bank to provide "Approval in Seconds," an automated online credit application process that provides a decision on an application in seconds. Customers can apply for credit cards, personal loans and lines and business loans 24/7 through its website www.fhb.com.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with assets of \$12.6 billion assets was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It has 58 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. (FHB)

hour Customer Service Center at 1-800-545-6300.

First Hawaiian Bank (\$12.6 billion assets) was founded in

1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It has 58 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two in Saipan. It is a subsid-

iary of BancWest Corporation (www.bancwestcorp.com), a financial holding company. (FHB)

By Patricia Kitchen
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

MELVILLE, N.Y.—Whether you believe President Bush, who says we are not in a recession, or multibillionaire investor Warren Buffett, who says we are, just the fear of economic bad times and the job turmoil that results can be a reason to stop and think:

How can we strengthen our positions where we are working now? And perhaps, if it becomes necessary, avoid that deer-in-the-headlights feeling when a pink slip arrives and make a smoother transition to another job?

Such preparation goes well beyond updating your resume—though that clearly should be at the top of the list. This is like a game of chess, and you want to be anticipating “not just the next move but two or three down the road,” says Bill Heather, senior vice president in the Melville office of Right Management, a career management and outplacement company.

The natural inclination is to “live in a comfort zone” and hope for the best, he says, but “don’t let things happen to you. You make sure you manage

Prepare for the next job

your own future.”

Here are some suggestions from Heather and others:

You’ve probably heard it time and again: Join and become active in a professional association—and don’t wait until after you’ve lost your job.

Flo Federman, president of the Public Relations Professionals of Long Island, says she is seeing a small uptick in the number of laid-off communications professionals joining with an eye to drumming up freelance work.

Belonging to such a group is a valuable career enhancement at any time, says Federman, director of marketing communications at Holtz Rubenstein Reminick LLP in Melville, but the value of doing so before a layoff is that you don’t have to start “from scratch building relationships and asking for help. You already have a foundation with people.”

As the economy takes a dip—and produces an increase in the number of laid-off human resources professionals asking for Heather’s help—he says he’s

resuscitating an informal networking group for those in that profession looking for work or concerned they may have to do a job search. In previous incarnations, such a group met monthly at his office to discuss issues like trends and market data.

After six years with a Manhattan publishing firm, Raymond Reinhardt, 33, decided to take advantage of his employer’s tuition reimbursement plan to get his MBA at Adelphi University. About six months shy of gradu-

mer company, he wound up with that firm’s footing the bill for his upgraded skills—which enabled him to move to another employer. It turned out to be “a get-out-of-jail slip for a rainy day,” says Reinhardt of Hicksville.

Far less intense and time-consuming than an MBA program is the in-house training that many employers offer in the latest computer software programs and in management techniques. By signing up for such training, you win not only if you stay but

marketing, time management, speaking/presentation skills and customer service.

These days, she says, she’s not seeing panic among the people she meets, but more people are “contemplating their futures.”

As you read industry blogs and e-letters and company newsletters, make note of what appear to be growth areas. If it is possible to transfer to one of those hot areas—and if it makes sense to you—try to set such a move in motion. At the very

are more “change-hearty and resilient,” and some of that might just rub off on you.

Has it occurred to you that you can turn to the college or university you attended for career help? In the past week alone, Barbara Church-Kattan, director of graduate business career services at the Zarb School of Business at Hofstra University, says she’s heard from one alumnus who was laid off and another who is worried about impending changes at his company. And, she says, the latter told her that when he realized those changes were coming, “the first person he thought of was me.”

Unless you’re a recent graduate, career-center professionals may not know of immediate openings at your level, but they certainly can help with your resume and strategy, as Church-Kattan has, as well as make introductions.

If you like your job and want to stay, volunteer for new assignments, says Valentina Janek, who last April cofounded the Long Island Breakfast Club, an advocacy, support and job search group for those age 40 and older.

Janek, who was laid off three years ago and is now marketing director at ARS Financial Services in Jericho, says in good times some companies routinely have offered bonuses to employees who come up with moneymaking or money-saving ideas, but in a tough economy that reward may simply be a continued paycheck. It’s important to keep offering such ideas, she says, and to let your employer know, “I’m here to stay.”

Along those lines, Brad Karsh, founder of JobBound, a Chicago-based resume writing, interviewing and job preparation service, says employees need to “know the problems, don’t complain and come up with solutions.”

Many people who are laid off consider starting a consulting business even as they look for full-time work. Janek’s advice is to put that ball in motion while you’re still employed.

Heather agrees. One of the worst things you can do, he says, is get laid off and say, “‘I’m going to start a business,’ having done no planning, no research and with no idea what you’re talking about.” Such endeavors, he says, are likely to fail. Better to do all the preparatory planning while you’re employed and “you still have that comfort paycheck coming in.”



Avoid that deer-in-the-headlights feeling when a pink slip arrives and make a smoother transition to another job.

ation last spring, his employer, a publishing firm in Manhattan, announced plans to relocate his department of 600 to Ohio.

So there he was, not inclined to move but about to receive what he calls “the Swiss Army knife of degrees.” He paid for the final semester himself, and though he says he had a few rough moments, he landed a job quickly as a financial representative at NRL Wealth Creation Strategies LLC in Westbury. Though his initial intention had been to advance within his for-

also if you have to go.

Even if your employer won’t pay for updating your skills, do it yourself and look at it as a career investment.

Elana Zolfo, vice president of corporate programs and continuing education at Dowling College, says she is getting more questions from people she meets at business events regarding what skills they are wise to brush up on in an iffy economy.

Among the most popular short-term classes at Dowling, she says, are business writing,

least, get to know people who work in those departments and collaborate with them when possible. The result: You’ll have contacts in hot, growing segments, and they’ll know people in similar areas at other companies, which could be helpful if you have to do a job search.

You’re also wise to befriend the 20-somethings in your office. Why? Because many are up to date with the latest skills and technology gadgets and can help you learn. Plus, Heather says, as a group they

Pregnancy complicates candidate’s interview

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: My job has become unstable in the last couple of months. I am pregnant and showing. How do I interview for a job when the potential employer knows I am going on maternity leave in a few months?

A: Make it clear that you plan to return after having the baby, and make the maternity leave part of your negotiations. Know

that it may not be paid.

It’s not the best circumstance in which to search for a job, but if a company wants you badly enough, it will try to work something out.

Q: What’s the policy on attending job fairs while still employed? What if your company has a table there? I’ve heard lots of people say it’s good to get out there, even to see market value, etc.

A: It’s not a bad idea, just

to meet people and look around. But if your company has a table at the job fair, I wouldn’t go.

Q: Can I ask for a raise based on my market value? I had a great year last year, and my employer acknowledged this and gave me a 5 percent raise. I want a 7 percent raise, which would bring me up to market value. (I work in the private sector, yet make slightly less than what

I would make if I were in a government position.) I can argue that I did great work, but my employer would just agree and say that’s why I received 5 percent.

A: Of course you can ask. But it sounds as if you have already asked—and that you have your answer. If you want more, consider going elsewhere.

Edited questions from Career Tracks, an online discussion about workplace issues.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Banks aren’t always upfront with fees

By DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

The law says that banks and other financial institutions must provide consumers with information about account fees and terms before an account is opened. This doesn’t always happen.

The Government Accountability Office recently released a report on a study done to determine whether it was easy for consumers to get that information before opening an account at a banking institution. The results:

At 20 percent of the institutions, they weren’t able to get any information. The same situation applied at more than 30 percent of banking institution Web sites: The information wasn’t available.

This leaves a lot of consumers facing surprise fees—and increases. The cost of items returned for insufficient funds and for overdrafts has gone up 11 percent since 2000. Stop payment order fees rose 17 percent. Fees on returned deposited items went up 29 percent. In 2006, we paid over \$36 billion in bank fees.

Here are some ways to keep track of the fees your bank charges:

■ Open your statement every month and read any leaflets enclosed. Buried in other information might be your notice that there is to be an increase in your bank fees, including an increased minimum to keep a no-fee checking account or a newly instituted fee to speak to a teller on the phone.

■ Ask if you can combine checking and savings totals to qualify as your “minimum balance” to keep your free checking.

■ When you use the ATM at a bank that’s not your own, check the screen for the required disclosure of the fee.

■ Don’t sign up for overdraft protection unless you share an ATM card with someone and you’re not scrupulous about writing down every transaction. Have overdraft you if makes you feel safer, but don’t use it.

Use your individual needs to assess whether a bank is right for you. If you live on your ATM card, look for a bank that doesn’t charge a fee if you use its machine. If you write a lot of checks, look for a bank with free checking.

Bankrate.com lists 23 different types of fees charged by banking institutions. Check the site to become familiar with the variety of fees your bank can impose.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

Nation

War protesters halt traffic, recall dead

By SARAH KARUSH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Protesters blocked traffic and government buildings in Washington, acted out a Baghdad street scene in Syracuse, N.Y., and banged drums in a parade through San Francisco on Wednesday to mark the fifth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

In other, more somber observances, organizers set up a 2-mile display of about 4,000 T-shirts in Cincinnati, meant to symbolize the members of the U.S. military killed in Iraq, while in Louisville, Ky., demonstrators lined rows of military boots, sandals and children's tennis shoes on the steps of a courthouse.

Laurie Wolberton of Louisville, Ky., whose son just finished an Army tour of duty in Iraq, said she fears the worsening U.S. economy has caused Americans to forget about the war.

"We're not paying attention anymore," she said. "My son has buried his friends. He's given eulogies, he's had to go through things no one should have to go through, and over here they've forgotten. They just go shopping instead."

On previous anniversaries, tens of thousands of people marched through major U.S. cities, and more than 100,000 gathered on several occasions leading up to the invasion.

Only a few hundred mustered for one of Wednesday's largest gatherings, in Washington, the crowds' size perhaps kept in check by a late-winter storm system that stretched the length of the country.

Dozens of people were arrested, most of them at demonstrations in San Francisco, Washington and Syracuse.

At the Internal Revenue Service building in the nation's capital, about 100 protesters led by a marching band gathered at the main entrance. Several jumped

barricades and sat down in front of the doors and were immediately detained. The demonstrators said they were focusing on the IRS, among other institutions, because it gathers taxes used to fund the war.

Brian Bickett, 29, was among the first arrested. The high school theater teacher from New York City said he had never engaged

in civil disobedience before.

"We need to find lots of different ways to resist the war, and I decided to try this," he said.

About 20 protesters were arrested about a block from the U.S. Capitol after blocking traffic. In some cases, police had to drag the protesters off the street.

In Syracuse, police arrested

20 protesters who blocked traffic by creating a mock Baghdad street scene. One person dressed in camouflage lay on the ground. Another was covered in a white sheet with red markings and a woman leaned over as if grieving. They were from a group of more than 100 demonstrators who marched downtown in a steady rain over the lunch hour.



Masked protestors are arrested by police after they would not move out of an intersection, as part of a protest against the war in Iraq, in Washington on Wednesday March 19, 2008.

Bush defiantly defends war in Iraq

By BEN FELLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER



Bush

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush defiantly defended the Iraq war Wednesday as U.S. troops began a sixth year of combat in the long and

costly conflict that has dominated his presidency. Bush conceded the war has been harder and more expensive than anticipated but insisted it has all been necessary to keep Americans safe.

Protesters marked the anniversary of the U.S. invasion with demonstrations near the White House and in other cities, though they seemed to lack the fervor of those that preceded the war.

Bush, in a speech at the Pentagon, offered some of his boldest assessments of progress and said the war's legacy is absolute: "The world is better, and the United States of America is safer."

A war-weary country isn't nearly so convinced.

The majority of people think the invasion was a mistake, polls show. However, Americans are more split about how the war is going and when U.S. troops should be pulled home, as reduced violence in Iraq has begun to influence the public view.

Almost 4,000 U.S. military members have died, and more than 29,000 have been wounded. The cost is \$500 billion and counting.

"No one would argue that this war has not come at a high cost in lives and treasure," Bush said. "But those costs are necessary when we consider the cost of a strategic victory for our enemies in Iraq."

4 die in Calif. wrecking yard shooting

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP)—Police alleged Wednesday that a son of an auto wrecking yard owner shot four people to death at the business, including at least one relative and two employees.

Panicked customers fled the busy yard Tuesday afternoon as the gunman shot his victims at close range, police said. The shootings were "very deliberate" and the suspect likely reloaded at least once, Santa Maria police Chief Danny Macagni said.

Lee Isaac Bedwell Leeds of Santa Maria was booked for investigation of murder and was held without bail. Police issued a news release saying witnesses

at the scene identified the 31-year-old as the gunman.

At least one of those killed at Black Road Auto was related to Leeds, two were employees and the fourth victim appears to have been a customer of the business, investigators said. The wrecking yard is in the outskirts of Santa Maria, about 150 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

One victim was found in the junk yard's office and three outside. Police said at least 10 shots were fired in the attack, but no one else was hurt.

"There were a lot of customers on the property, and they were running outside," police Lt. Dan Ast said. "It was a pretty chaotic situation."

SC troopers used cars to ram suspects

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Videos have surfaced showing two members of the South Carolina Highway Patrol using their cruisers to ram fleeing suspects, just weeks after two leaders of the agency resigned because of a furor over a trooper's use of a racial slur.

In one of the two new dashcam videos, which were first reported Wednesday by The Post and Courier of Charleston, Lance Cpl. Steven C. Garren drives after a man on foot, striking him when he crosses in front of Garren's cruiser. The man flips over the car's hood and into high grass on the roadside.

"Yeah, I hit him. I was try-

ing to hit him," Garren, who is white, can be heard telling another trooper.

In the other, Lance Cpl. Alexander Richardson drives between apartment buildings, on sidewalks and past onlookers in an attempt to run down a suspect. After about a minute, Richardson's car bumps the man, who grabs the vehicle in an attempt to steady himself. The man doesn't fall and takes off running again.

Sid Gaulden, a spokesman for the Department of Public Safety, said neither trooper was available for comment. A message left at a number for an Alexander Richard-

son was not immediately returned. Garren did not have a listed phone number.

The videos depicted isolated events, and the troopers involved had been punished, Gaulden said.

Garren received a three-day suspension, which he has appealed. Richardson was reprimanded and completed a stress management course, disciplinary records show.

Geoffrey Alpert, a University of South Carolina criminal justice professor who consults with police on pursuit policies, said using cars as battering rams shows poor decision making.

Boyfriend charged in Kansas toilet case

NESS CITY, Kan. (AP)—A man whose girlfriend authorities say spent nearly two years in a bathroom in their house, sitting on the toilet so long that the seat adhered to her body, has been charged with mistreatment of a dependent adult.

Kory McFarren, 37, was charged Monday in Ness County District Court.

McFarren called the Ness County Sheriff's Office in late February to say something was wrong with his girlfriend. When authorities arrived at the home, they found Pam Babcock, 35, stuck to the toilet, which they think she had sat on for about a month.

McFarren told authorities

that Babcock feared leaving the bathroom and may not have left it in two years, although said he was unsure how long she was in there. He said that he took her food and water daily, and that he repeatedly asked her to come out but that she usually replied "maybe tomorrow."

"The only thing I am guilty of is I didn't get her help sooner," McFarren told The Associated Press nearly a week ago.

Ness County Attorney Craig Crosswhite said the mistreatment charge most closely fit the situation.

"I looked at the statutes and spoke to the attorney general's office," he said. "This was a very unusual set of cir-

cumstances, and this is the law that most closely applied to the situation."

Authorities said Babcock sat on the toilet so long that open sores developed and caused her to become attached to the seat. Sheriff Bryan Whipple has said that he used a pry bar to remove the seat from the toilet, and that the woman was taken to the hospital with the seat still attached.

"She would have to be sleeping on the toilet," Whipple said.

Doctors at a Wichita hospital where Babcock was taken told McFarren that an infection in her legs had damaged her nerves and could leave her in a wheelchair. She was still at the hospital Wednesday night.

13 dead, 3 missing in central US storm

PIEDMONT, Mo. (AP)—Residents of low-lying towns stacked sandbags or grabbed belongings and evacuated Wednesday after a foot of rain pushed rivers and creeks out of their banks in the nation's midsection. At least 13 deaths had been linked to the weather, and three people were missing.

Record or near-record flood crests were forecast at several towns in Missouri. Flooding was reported in large areas of Arkansas and parts of southern Illinois, southern Indiana and southwestern Ohio, and schools were closed in parts of western Kentucky because of flooded roads.

"We've got water rising everywhere," said Jeff Korb, president of the Vanderburgh County, Ind., commissioners.

The National Weather Service posted flood and flash flood warnings from Texas to Pennsylvania.

After two days, rain had finally stopped falling by Wednesday afternoon in much of Missouri and Arkansas as the weather system crawled toward the Northeast, drenching the Ohio Valley and spreading snow over parts of northern New England. A parallel band of locally heavy rain stretched from Alabama and Georgia to the mid-Atlantic states.

Atlanta police closed some downtown streets in case the stormy weather knocked down more broken glass and debris from buildings damaged by Friday's tornado.

In Ohio and other areas, the rain fell on ground already saturated from heavy snowfall less than two weeks ago.

A foot of rain had fallen in sections of southern Illinois and at Mountain



Debris is scattered in a yard off of in Allendale County on Tuesday, March 18, 2008.

Home, Ark., and Cape Girardeau, Mo., while 6.2 inches fell at Evansville, Ind., the weather service said.

Five deaths were linked to the flooding in Missouri, five people were killed in a highway wreck in heavy rain in Kentucky and a 65-year-old Ohio woman appeared to have drowned while checking on a sump pump in her home. In southern Illinois, two bodies were found hours after floodwaters

swept a pickup truck off a rural road.

Searches were under way in Texas for a teenager washed down a drainage pipe, and two people were missing in Arkansas after their vehicles were swept away by rushing water.

Searchers in Missouri found the body of Mark G. Speir Jr., 19, on Wednesday about 2 miles downstream from where he was reported swept into a creek the previous evening.

"He was going down the creek screaming and hollering," Lawrence County emergency management chief Mike Rowe said.

An estimated 300 houses and businesses were flooded in Piedmont, a town of 2,000 residents on McKenzie Creek. Dozens of people were rescued by boat.

Outside St. Louis, the Meramec River was threatening towns includ-

ing Eureka and Valley Park, where Chandra Webster's kids ran bags of toys and clothes to the car while she moved boxes of belongings to the second floor and her husband moved furniture out of harm's way.

"It's a lot of work, but it's worth it to save your stuff," Webster, 34, said Wednesday. "In '82 we lost everything when I was a little girl. I don't want to put my kids through that."

Rare explosion jolts Hawaii volcano

VOLCANO, Hawaii (AP)—An explosion atop the long-erupting Kilauea volcano rained gravel-size rocks onto a tourist lookout, road and trail before dawn Wednesday, injuring no one but forcing parts of a national park to close.

It was the first explosion in Kilauea's main Halemaumau Crater since 1924, scattering debris over about 75 acres, said Jim Kauahikaua, scientist-in-charge at Hawaiian Volcano Observatory on the Big Island.

The 4,190-foot volcano has been erupting from fissures along its side steadily for more than a quarter-century. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park draws thousands of people daily, with a visitors center and lodge near the crater rim.

No lava erupted as part of the 3 a.m. explosion. That suggests it was caused by hydrothermal or gas buildup, Kauahikaua said.

Scientists monitoring the summit say that there's a "remote possibility"

of an eruption inside the half-mile-wide crater, but that it's unlikely because other indicators of an eruption aren't present.

"The recent explosive event represents a significant addition and change to Kilauea Volcano's ongoing activity, and Hawaiian Volcano Observatory is using every means available to study its causes and consequences," Kauahikaua said in a statement.

The explosion followed three months of increased activity in the crater, which has been releasing high levels of sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide, said observatory geochemist Jeff Sutton.

The park had previously closed a part of the road near the gas emissions, and that area was expanded Wednesday following the explosion.

Officials shut off the road at the Kilauea Military Camp toward the Jaggar Museum and observatory. Only volcano employees were allowed inside that part of the park.

Salmonella outbreak may be tied to water

DENVER (AP)—State health officials warned residents of a southern Colorado town Wednesday to stop drinking and cooking with tap water because they said it might be linked to a salmonella outbreak.

The state health department said 33 cases of salmonella have been confirmed and 46 other reports were being investigated in Alamosa, a city of 8,500 about 160 miles south of Denver. Officials said that the tap water tested positive for bacteria believed to be salmonella, but that the results had not been confirmed.

Water-borne salmonella outbreaks are fairly rare, said Mark Salley, a spokesman for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The bacteria are typically spread by food, he said.

Salmonella can cause diarrhea, fever and stomach pain. Victims typically recover on their own, but the elderly, infants and people with impaired immune systems may require treatment. Untreated, salmonella can cause death in vulnerable victims, the health department said.

ACROSS THE NATION

RI club fire figure released from prison

CRANSTON, R.I. (AP)—The band manager whose pyrotechnics display sparked a nightclub fire that killed 100 people in 2003 was freed from prison Wednesday after serving less than half of his four-year sentence. Daniel Biechele, 31, walked from the front door of Rhode Island's minimum security prison into his lawyer's car at midday and was driven away. He did not respond to questions as he got into the vehicle. His attorney, Thomas Briody, said in a statement that Biechele would not make any public statements "out of respect for those people most affected by the fire." "He was a private citizen before this tragedy, and he wishes to remain so," Briody said.

Zoo's response to tiger attack detailed

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—San Francisco Zoo workers should have believed two brothers who said a tiger was loose and had mauled their friend, but overall reacted well to the fatal Christmas Day attacks, according to the organization that accredits the nation's zoos. The report by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, which the zoo released in excerpts Tuesday, provided its most detailed account of the fatal mauling. The full document remains confidential between the organization and the zoo, but association spokesman Steve Feldman said the excerpts released by the zoo accurately reflected the full report. "They've accurately sum-

marized the findings from those documents," Feldman said. "The fact that we've maintained the zoo's accreditation also speaks for itself."

Judge awards NYC diplomatic millions

NEW YORK (AP)—Foreign diplomats get great parking spots, but their home countries can't escape the U.S. tax man. A federal judge has ordered the governments of India, Mongolia and the Philippines to pony up \$57.6 million in real estate taxes in a case that reached the U.S. Supreme Court. U.S. District Court Judge Jed S. Rakoff issued the order Monday after the high court ruled 7-2 last year that the city had a right to collect taxes on portions of buildings used by other countries for non-diplomatic purposes. International treaties have defined consulates and embassies as sovereign territory, which makes them generally tax exempt. But Rakoff said it was clearly stated that only the home of the head of a mission is exempted from taxes in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Group housing for vets raises concerns

GUERNEVILLE, Calif. (AP)—Merry Lane, a cul-de-sac shaded by redwoods in Sonoma County wine country, would seem a pleasant place to recover from the psychic wounds of war. Nadia McCaffrey's dream is to set up a group home there for veterans plagued by post-traumatic stress

disorder. But she is running into stiff resistance from the neighbors. They not only object to the brand-new structure itself, which looks like a four-story apartment house wedged amid their cabins, they are also worried that deranged veterans will move in. At a community meeting in December, "one person was concerned that even firecrackers would set these people off," said Andrew Eckers, 54, who lives across the street. McCaffrey, whose son was killed in Iraq in 2004, said she has tried to reassure the neighbors, but "they are afraid of it because they don't want to understand it."

At least 500 people flee Texas wildfire

SAN MANUEL, Texas (AP)—A wildfire blamed on a fallen power line in the Rio Grande Valley spread to about 25,000 acres Wednesday, forcing hundreds from their homes. A small grass fire near Laredo also caused a power plant to shut down as a precaution for about two hours and led the state's electric power grid to import power from Mexico for a time. The Rio Grande Valley fire, which started Tuesday afternoon, was 50 percent contained by Wednesday evening. Earlier, the Texas Forest Service estimated the blaze covered about 50,000 acres but a view from the air showed it to be about half that size, spokeswoman Sandra Taylor said. Still, the fire covered an area about 20 miles long and 2 miles wide, she said.

Asia

WHO says drug-resistant TB spreading in Asia-Pacific region

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis are spreading largely unchecked in Asia and the Pacific because the region lacks adequate laboratory facilities to track them, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

“This is a serious situation,” WHO regional director Dr. Shigeru Omi said in a statement in Manila, where he is based. “We are worried this silent epidemic could set us back years. We could lose the gains made in recent years.”

Many Asia-Pacific countries lack the capacity to monitor and manage multi-drug resistant TB, or MDR-TB, resulting in the “vast majority of cases” spreading undetected and untreated, the statement said. Multi-drug resistant strains are TB bacteria

that are immune to several types of medicines.

An untreated TB patient can infect 10 to 15 people a year just by coughing or sneezing. Infections also can spread among passengers on long-haul flights, WHO said.

“Without adequate laboratory support, we don’t know what drugs still work. We don’t even know the true scale of the problem,” Omi said.

To confirm infections, most developing countries rely almost exclusively on labora-

tory microscopes to identify the TB bacteria. Costly and complex culture methods, in which bacteria specimens are grown in a controlled environment to identify their specific strains, are used to detect drug resistance.

China tightens grip in Tibetan areas



Tibetans protesting against Chinese rule are seen attacking a car at Bakhor Square in Lhasa, China, Friday March 14, 2008.

AP

BEIJING (AP)—China acknowledged for the first time Thursday that anti-government riots that rocked Tibet last week have spread to other provinces, while communist authorities announced the first group of arrests in connection with the violence.

The moves came as the government sent armed police into far-flung towns and villages to reassert control in the Tibetan areas of western China as sporadic demonstrations against Chinese rule in Tibet continued to flare up.

A top Beijing Olympics official vowed the unrest would not disrupt plans for the torch relay preceding this summer’s Olympics in Beijing. One leg of the relay is to pass through Tibet, taking the flame to the peak of Mount Everest sometime in May.

The official Xinhua News Agency said “riots in Tibetan-inhabited areas in the provinces

of Sichuan and Gansu, both neighboring Tibet.” It blamed both incidents on supporters of the Dalai Lama, Tibet’s exiled spiritual leader.

The Xinhua report confirms previous claims by exile Tibet activist groups that the protests had spread. Foreign journalists have been banned from going to Tibet and stopped by police from entering areas in other provinces large with Tibetan populations.

The Tibet Daily reported that 24 people had been arrested for endangering state security, and for other “grave crimes” for their roles in last Friday’s riots in Tibet’s capital, Lhasa.

“This incident has severely disrupted the social order, harmed people’s life and property, and these illegal acts organized, pre-planned, and well-designed by the Dalai clique,” Lhasa deputy chief prosecutor Xie Yanjun was quoted as saying.

Pakistan elects first female parliament speaker

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Legislators elected Pakistan’s first female speaker of parliament Wednesday, seating a follower - and lookalike - of assassinated former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Fehmida Mirza’s elevation reflected the air of liberalism blowing through the country’s politics since voters delivered a resounding defeat to backers of President Pervez Mushar-

raf, the former general who has been a close U.S. ally.

However, many Pakistanis are warily watching the victorious elitist parties, worried over whether politicians whose civilian governments in the 1990s were tainted by corruption and ineptitude will be able to deal with Islamic mili-



Mirza

tants and economic hardships.

In a first sign of trouble, the new leaders are struggling to agree on who should be prime minister. There was less of a problem in picking the speaker.

Mirza, a businesswoman and physician elected to parliament three times, won 249 of the

324 votes cast in the National Assembly, parliament’s lower house. Israr Tareen, a coal-mining magnate and Musharraf supporter, got only 70. Five ballots were invalid.

“Being a woman, it gives me immense pride and happiness to see you on that chair,” Saima Akhtar Bharwana, a lawmaker from Bhutto’s Pakistan People’s Party, said after Mirza was sworn in.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Sri Lankan TV journalists attacked
COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Workers at Sri Lanka’s state television channel fear they are being hunted. In the past two months, staff members have been stabbed, threatened and beaten up. The violence has grown so bad that the president had to give employees at the station, Rupavahini Corp., a personal promise of protection to prevent a walkout that would have likely forced it off the air. Employees say the attacks may be connected to a feud with a government minister. Media watchdog groups say they are part of a wave of intimidat-

tion against journalists that has grown as the civil war between Sri Lankan government forces and ethnic Tamil rebels escalated over the past two years.

Russian arms dealer jail stay lengthened

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—A Thai court extended the detention Wednesday of a Russian man dubbed the “Merchant of Death” for his alleged reputation as one of the world’s biggest black market arms dealers. Bangkok Criminal Court approved a police request to extend by 12 days the detention of Viktor Bout, 41, who was arrested on March 6 at the

request of U.S. authorities, said police Col. Petcharat Sengchai said. Bout faces U.S. charges of “conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization” for allegedly arranging to sell and transport weapons, including portable surface-to-air missiles, to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

Tibet adds pressure for Olympic sponsors

BEIJING (AP)—McDonald’s, Coca-Cola and other sponsors paid tens of millions of dollars to link their names with the Beijing Olympics. Now they’re trying to mollify activists

pressing for change on Tibet, Darfur and other issues, without angering China. They have expressed concern over Tibet. Some talk privately to Beijing organizers. Samsung Electronics Co. called off a Beijing news conference scheduled for Friday on the torch relay. But sponsors insist they should stay out of politics. “We all have to be careful about how we talk about this,” said Chris Renner, president for China of sports marketing consulting firm Helios Partners. Its clients include sponsors Volkswagen AG, computer maker Lenovo Group and mining giant BHP Billiton Ltd.

Philippines braces for surging rice costs, shortage of supply

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government, one of the world’s biggest rice importers, assured a jittery public Wednesday that it is taking steps to secure enough supplies amid surging prices and tight stocks worldwide.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said there was no rice shortage and that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had approved a proposal to augment the agriculture department’s budget for rice production.

Yap said the plan calls for the planting of an additional 600,000 hectares (1.5 million acres) of rice during the rainy season in the country’s top 10 poorest provinces, and another 500,000 hectares (1.2 million acres) in other provinces. Harvests expected in the months ahead also will beef up supplies, he said.

Arroyo said Tuesday that rice prices are expected to rise, but promised there will be no shortage.

Yap said the government’s rice reserve would last 57 days and that the National Food Authority was receiving additional supplies from the international market.



A rice vendor watches television as she waits for customers at a public market in Manila, Philippines, Wednesday March 19, 2008.

AP

World

Bin Laden slams EU over prophet cartoons

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Osama bin Laden, in a new audio message posted Wednesday, condemned the publication of drawings that he said insulted the Prophet Muhammad and warned Europeans of a “severe” reaction to come.

The message, which appeared on a militant Web site that has carried al-Qaida statements in the past and bore the logo of the extremist group’s media wing al-Sahab, showed a still image of bin Laden aiming with an assault rifle.

“The response will be what you see and not what you hear and let our mothers bereave us if we do not make victorious our messenger of God,” said a voice believed to be bin Laden’s, without specifying what action would be taken.

The five-minute message, bin Laden’s first this year, made no mention of the fifth anniversary Wednesday of the U.S.-led invasion in Iraq.

It came as the Muslim world marks the Prophet Muhammad’s birthday Thursday and amid the

reigniting of a two-year-old controversy over some Danish cartoons deemed by Muslims to be insulting. Islamic law generally opposes any depiction of the prophet, even favorable, for fear it could lead to idolatry.

Bin Laden described the drawings as taking place in the framework of a “new Crusade” against Islam, in which he said the pope has played a “large and lengthy role.”

On Feb. 13, Danish newspapers republished a cartoon showing Muhammad wearing

a bomb-shaped turban to show their commitment to freedom of speech after police said they had uncovered a plot to kill the artist.

Danish intelligence service said the reprinting of the cartoon had brought “negative attention” to Denmark and may have increased the risk to Danes at home and abroad.

The original 12 cartoons first published in a Danish newspaper triggered major protests in Muslim countries in 2006. There have been renewed protests in the last month.

Iraqi council clears way for provincial election

BAGHDAD (AP)—Under strong U.S. pressure, Iraq’s presidential council signed off Wednesday on a measure paving the way for provincial elections by the fall, a major step toward easing sectarian rifts as the nation marks the fifth anniversary of the war.

The decision by the council, made up of the country’s president and two vice presidents, lays the groundwork for voters to choose new leaders of Iraq’s 18 provinces. The elections open the door to greater Sunni representation in regional administrations.

Many Sunnis boycotted the last election for provincial officials in January 2005, enabling Shiites and Kurds to win a disproportionate share of power at the expense of the Sunnis - even in areas with substantial Sunni populations.

That in turn helped fuel the Sunni-led insurgency and the wave of sectarian bloodletting which drove the country to the brink of civil war before President Bush rushed nearly 30,000 U.S. reinforcements to Iraq last year.

The decision by the council came two days after Vice President Dick Cheney visited Baghdad to press Iraqi leaders to overcome their differences and take advantage of a lull in violence to make progress in power-sharing deals to heal sectarian and ethnic divisions.

A spokesman for the biggest Sunni bloc, Saleem Abdullah, said Cheney pushed hard for progress on the provincial elections as well as a long-stalled measure to share the country’s oil wealth.

Last month, Iraq’s parliament passed the bill calling for provincial elections by Oct. 1. But the presidential council blocked implementation after the Shiite vice president, Adel Abdul-Mahdi, raised objections to some of the provisions.

That outraged followers of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who are eager for elections to take power away from Abdul-Mahdi’s party in the vast, oil-rich Shiite heartland of southern Iraq. Al-Sadr’s supporters believed their Shiite rivals were trying to delay the vote to hold on to power.

The start of Iraq war remembered

By **HAMZA HENDAWI**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BAGHDAD (AP)—I threw on my gas mask during the barrage that opened the war. The rocket blasts gave the air a smell that reminded me of kerosene. My eyes were burning.

Could Saddam Hussein be releasing the chemical weapons the White House said he stockpiled? Or would we be used as human shields? Or killed by the regime?

So began the first chaotic hours of the war that I’ve watched unfold for five years.

I had seen fighting before: the 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli wars while growing up in Egypt, as a reporter covering Sudan’s civil war in the 1980s. And in Kuwait.

None of that prepared me for those first moments in Baghdad.

Like most other foreign reporters who covered the war in Baghdad, I was staying in the 18-story, Palestine Hotel along the Tigris. My sixth-floor room faced the river.

Suddenly, white-and-yellow anti-aircraft tracers crisscrossed the sky. Air raid sirens whined.

The Tomahawk cruise missiles and big bombs soon followed, producing giant flashes that rose and ebbed on the city’s southern horizon. There was at least one massive red ball of fire. The shock waves and the thunderous roll lasted about 30 minutes. Some were so violent it felt the Palestine was doing a jerky dance.

The first bombing run was over at daylight. A strange mix of sounds replaced the thunder: the call for dawn prayers from a mosque in the nearby Firdous Square, dogs barking ceaselessly and car alarms ringing.

It was after sunrise when I decided to catch a little sleep. I had no idea, of course, when the next wave of bombings would come. So—and this is something I remember with bemusement—I decided to nap in my helmet and body armor.

I thought they would protect me from flying glass or masonry if bombs or rockets hit close to the hotel.

Like other reporters in Baghdad, I drew some comfort from the belief that the U.S. military and its allies knew where we were staying. The real danger—in our mind, at least, in those first hours—would be the regime’s security agents. They were all over the Palestine to keep an eye on us. And we watched them, worried they could turn against us or take our money and equipment.

There was also concern that Saddam’s militiamen, many of them thugs or drifters, could grab us as human shields. After all, Saddam did

exactly that in the war over Kuwait in 1991. Armed Saddam loyalists were visible across the city in pickup trucks, sedans and at sandbagged gun positions.

It soon became known that the target of the opening bombing salvo was a compound that U.S. intelligence believed was housing Iraqi leaders—including, perhaps, Saddam himself.

By late that morning, state television aired a tape of Saddam. It was obviously designed to assure Iraqis that their leader of 23 years was alive and well. He looked fatigued, wore thick-rimmed reading glasses—which he had always avoided doing in public—and was dressed in full military uniform.

He showed none of the confidence, or cockiness, he displayed in dozens of meetings with army officers that state television aired night after night in the weeks running up to the start of the war. He quoted more heavily than usual from the Quran, described the American president as “little, evil Bush” and vowed that defeat awaited the U.S. military.

I watched the tape in the Information Ministry, the only place in Baghdad where foreign reporters were allowed to work and transmit their stories. But now that the war has started, everyone knew that the Information Ministry was on the target list of the U.S.-led coalition.

The ministry, run by hard-core regime supporters, wanted us to continue working there. The hope was that the U.S. military would somehow find out and take it off the hit list. But it was too risky. I, like several other reporters, retrieved my satellite phone under the cover of darkness and climbed to a second-story terrace to take back the antenna. (The ministry was hit later in the war, causing limited damage.)

For the next few days, the bombings intensified. But they also took on an oddly reassuring routine.

The attacks on Baghdad began after sunset, when those Iraqis still left in the city were hunkered down at home or in bomb shelters.

It was easy enough to travel the city during daylight hours to visit bombed sites and hospitals and gauge the mood of the city—and just stay put at the Palestine when it was dark. But the Information Ministry had other ideas.

Officials sharing our hotel kept on organizing nighttime bus tours around the city to see what they claimed were civilian areas bombed by the Americans. Some of them were clearly hit by antiquated, Soviet-era, anti-aircraft missiles fired by the Iraqis but which malfunctioned and fell on Baghdad neighborhoods.

In those days, saying “no” to the Information Ministry entailed the risk of deportation to Jordan after a 300-mile road journey in the open desert.

But those bus tours were equally risky. The buses rumbled across the city as the sun went down and the glow of explosions illuminated the gathering darkness.



Two of the Express Newspapers’ titles are seen with front-page apologies to Kate and Gerry McCann for suggesting the couple were responsible for Madeleine’s death, in London, Wednesday March 19, 2008.

Madeleine’s parents accept apology

LONDON (AP)—For British tabloid editors, sorry always seems to be the hardest word.

Readers and journalists got a shock Wednesday when they saw the headlines in the Daily Express and the Daily Star: “Kate and Gerry McCann: Sorry.”

Both newspapers ran rare Page 1 apologies to the parents of missing child Madeleine McCann, acknowledging there was no evidence to support claims they caused their daughter’s death.

The words—and the papers’ million-dollar libel payout to the McCanns—sent a chill through the British media. But some media-watchers doubted the case would rein in Britain’s fiercely competitive tabloids, which regularly blur the lines among rumor, innuendo and fact.

In their apologies, the newspapers said, “Kate and Gerry are completely innocent of any involvement in their daughter’s disappearance.”

“Express Newspapers regrets publishing these extremely serious, yet baseless, allegations,” said the papers’ lawyer, Stephen Bacon.

WORLD BRIEFS

Gadhafi celebrates Prophet’s birthday

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—In his drive to spread Libyan and Islamic influence in Africa, Moammar Gadhafi inaugurated a huge new mosque in this predominantly Christian country Wednesday, with several African heads of state attending and scores of Arab journalists flown in for the occasion. Packed in Kampala’s soccer stadium, a crowd estimated at 10,000 to 15,000 chanted “long live brother Gadhafi” before the Libyan leader delivered an hour-long lecture on the meaning of Islam. Gadhafi, who celebrates the Mulid al-Nabi, or Prophet’s birthday, a day earlier than most other Muslims, was in Kampala to inaugurate the huge new Gadhafi National Mosque, which he funded and is touted by Libyan officials as Africa’s second-largest.

Royal Facebook usurper freed in Morocco

PARIS (AP)—A Moroccan computer engineer who was imprisoned for creating a fake Facebook profile of King Mohammed VI’s younger brother said Wednesday he only did it out of admiration for the prince. Fouad Mourtada, 26, told The Associated Press that he was “fine” after the monarch granted him a pardon that led to his release Tuesday from a prison in Sale, Morocco. He thanked supporters who campaigned for his release. Mourtada was sentenced last month to three years in prison for “usurping” the identity of Prince Moulay Rachid by creating a profile of him on the popular networking site. He was arrested early last month.

Ranger arrested in killing of gorillas

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—A park ranger has been arrested for allegedly masterminding the massacre of endangered mountain gorillas, conservationists said Wednesday. Honore Mashagiro, a ranger in Congo’s Virunga National Park, is the chief suspect in the slaying last summer of 10 gorillas who belonged to a group known to environmentalists as the Rugendo family. Mashagiro is accused of arranging the mass killing to deter conservationists who were trying to prevent the destruction of the animals’ rainforest habitat, the international conservation group WildlifeDirect said. Only about 700 mountain gorillas remain in the world.

Off The Wall

Japan appoints cartoon ambassador

TOKYO (AP)—Japan has created an unusual government post to promote animation, and named a perfect figure Wednesday to the position: a popular cartoon robot cat named Doraemon.

Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura appointed the cat an “anime ambassador,” handing a human-sized Doraemon doll an official certificate at an inauguration ceremony, along with dozens of “dorayaki” red bean pancakes—his favorite dessert—piled on a huge plate.

Komura told the doll, with an unidentified person inside, that he hoped he would widely promote Japanese animated cartoons, or “anime.”

“Doraemon, I hope you will travel around the world as an anime ambassador to deepen people’s understanding of Japan so they will become friends with Japan,” Komura told the blue-and-white cat.

The appointment is part of Japan’s recent effort to harness the power of pop culture in diplomacy. Japan also created an International Manga Award last year under comic enthusiast former Foreign Minister Taro Aso, who likened it to a “Nobel Prize” for

an artist working abroad.

Manga, the name used for Japanese-style comic books, often combine complex stories with drawing styles that differ from their overseas superhero counterparts, particularly in their emphasis on cuteness.

This year, the ministry plans to arrange showings of a Doraemon film in Singapore, China, Spain, France, and at other Japanese diplomatic missions around the world.

Doraemon—through voice actress Wasabi Mizuta, who spoke from behind a sliding paper screen—promised Komura that “through my cartoons, I hope to convey to people abroad what ordinary Japanese people think, our lifestyles and what kind of future we want to build.”

Created by cartoonist Fujiko F. Fujio, Doraemon is a Japanese cultural icon and is popular around the world, especially in Asia. The robotic cat travels back in time from the 22nd century and uses gadgets such as a “time machine” and an “anywhere door” that come out of a fourth-dimensional pocket on his stomach to help his friends, allowing them to travel anywhere and to any time they wish.



Japan’s popular comic book characters, robotic cat “Doraemon”, center, and Nobita, right, are flanked by Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura, after Komura named Doraemon for Japan’s first Anime Ambassador at the foreign ministry in Tokyo, Japan, Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Firefighters pull foal from septic tank

CITRA, Fla. (AP)—Nearly a dozen central Florida firefighters pulled a 2-month-old foal from some deep doo-doo after the little horse fell into a septic tank. Rescuers spent more than an hour Tuesday using hoses and ropes to save the animal who escaped with his mother Reba from a fenced in area. When Reba crossed over a septic tank, her weight either broke or displaced the cover and Shooter fell into about 3 feet of foul water. Shooter was rescued, smelly but unharmed, with only minor cuts.

Sisters: eBay pulled corn flake auction

CHICAGO (AP)—Two sisters from Virginia who are selling a corn flake shaped like the state of Illinois on eBay say the online auction Web site canceled their listing. “Something really dramatic just happened with our corn flake,” Melissa McIntire, 23, of Chesapeake, Va., said Tuesday, explaining that the sisters received an e-mail from eBay saying the state-shaped cereal was in violation of the site’s food policy. But the flake is back. The sisters say the Land of Lincoln twin they discovered in a box of Kellogg’s Frosted Flakes is still available after all. McIntire and her 15-year-old sister Emily said they’ve relisted the flake on eBay, but this time they’re auctioning a coupon redeemable for it, instead of the cereal itself. Bidding on Wednesday was at \$255.00.

Another Olympic problem—squat toilets

BEIJING (AP)—Among all the protests, pollution concerns and talk of boycotts surrounding the Beijing Olympics, a more basic problem has arisen for organizers: the toilets.

At the more than 30 test events held by organizers, the presence of squat toilets at many of the new and renovated venues has drawn frequent complaints.

“We have asked the venues to improve on this, to increase the number to sit-down toilets,” Yao Hui, deputy director of venue management for the Beijing organizers, said Wednesday. “Many people have raised the question of toilets.”

The issue came up again over the weekend when the San Diego Padres played the Los An-

geles Dodgers at the new Olympic baseball venue. The portable toilets trucked in were of the style used widely in Asia, but rarely in the West.

Yao suggested it would be difficult to change every permanent toilet in the 37 venues, 31 of which are in Beijing. So he said the focus would be on satisfying three groups of visitors: athletes, journalists and the Olympic family, meaning primarily VIPs.

He said renovation was underway at the three most striking venues for the Olympics, the 91,000-seat “Bird’s Nest” National Stadium, the “Water Cube” and the National Indoor Stadium. He said most of the toilets there “should be” the sit-

down style.

Beijing is expecting about 500,000 foreigners to attend the Aug. 8-24 games.

“Most of the Chinese people are used to the squat toilet, but nowadays more and more people demand sit-down toilets,” Yao said. “However, it will take some time for this transition.”

Beijing is reported to be spending at least \$40 billion on the venues and related infrastructure, all designed to feature a modern country that has grown in three decades to a political and economic powerhouse.

“I believe the Olympic games will be a great opportunity for us to speed up this transition,” Yao said. “I believe the situation will get better and better.”

Michigan girl’s birthday hope comes true

SANFORD, Mich. (AP)—At her seventh birthday party, Amber Birdsall thought the huge gift box wrapped in pink paper likely hid a pair of bicycles.

She was wrong. Inside was something she wanted even more—her stepfather, a soldier who had been deployed overseas.

“This is way better than bikes,” Amber said.

The surprise began a few weeks ago when Amber told her inquiring mother that all she wanted for her birthday was to have her stepfather return home from serving 10 months in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Her mother, Trisha Johnson, 34, relayed Amber’s wish to her 39-year-old husband the same day that the girl expressed it. Army Spc. Glenn Johnson immediately started on the paperwork, not expecting his request for a leave to be granted because he is scheduled to come home for good in June.

Much to their surprise, his request for more than a week of leave was granted.



The Irish Pub in Atlantic City, N.J. overflows with participants of its 24th annual day-after St. Patrick’s Day tradition, Bag Day, on Tuesday, March 18, 2008.

NJ Irish Pub is in the ‘bag’ on Bag Day

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Paul Murphy came all the way from Glasgow, Scotland, to stand against the back wall of The Irish Pub with a pint in his hand and a paper bag on his head.

He did not stand out in the least at the bar, which was packed Tuesday afternoon with people wearing brightly decorated paper bags atop their heads, for this was Bag Day, the second-greatest day of the year at The Irish Pub.

Each March 18, the day after St. Patrick’s Day, people come from far and near to jam the

joint, most wearing some sort of bag fashioned into a hat atop their head. The tradition dates back 24 years to a group of exhausted waitresses and casino workers who realized they had worked through the entire night and missed St. Paddy’s Day.

“We said, ‘We didn’t have too much fun on St. Patrick’s Day; let’s start our own holiday,’” said Cathy Burke, who owns the pub. “The bartender had just brought out a pile of bags that they use behind the bar, and we put some on our heads and said, ‘We declare today Bag Day, the

official holiday of The Irish Pub and anyone who has to work on St. Patrick’s Day.”

That day, the staff met people at the door and told them they couldn’t enter unless they wore a bag on their heads, handing them out to the slightly startled patrons. As the years went by, people started bringing their own bags, many richly painted and decorated.

Rich Crofton drove 40 miles from Williamstown to wear a white bag bedecked with shamrocks, drawings of two sudsy mugs, and the words “Beer Me, I’m Irish” on his hat.

Science & Technology

Apple said to weigh unlimited music deal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple Inc. is mulling a plan to upend its iTunes business by giving people unlimited free access to the music library if they're willing to pay more for the iPod and iPhone devices they use for playing and storing the digital media, according to a report published Wednesday.

Some analysts threw cold water on the plan outlined in the Financial Times, however, saying Cupertino-based Apple would risk creating an "accounting nightmare" and alienating some artists if it started giving away songs on its iTunes online store.

Rumors have buzzed through the industry for a couple years that Apple might open iTunes for free downloads. Meanwhile, Apple's rivals are experimenting with new ways to distribute music online - including giving it away.

The newspaper cited unnamed music industry sources in reporting that Apple is negotiating with record labels over a deal to offer a monthly music subscription for the iPhone, as well as an unlimited music bundle for both the iPod and iPhone.

The cheapest iPods - the Shuffle model - currently start at \$49, and the cheapest iPhones start at \$399.

The Financial Times didn't say how much the prices of those devices would jump if the proposal were to go through. But it said the sticking point in

the discussions how much Apple will pay the labels for access to their music libraries, with Apple currently offering to pay just \$20 per device.

Apple did not respond to requests for comment.

Some analysts said the iTunes store is too valuable to Apple for it to give away the music in it.

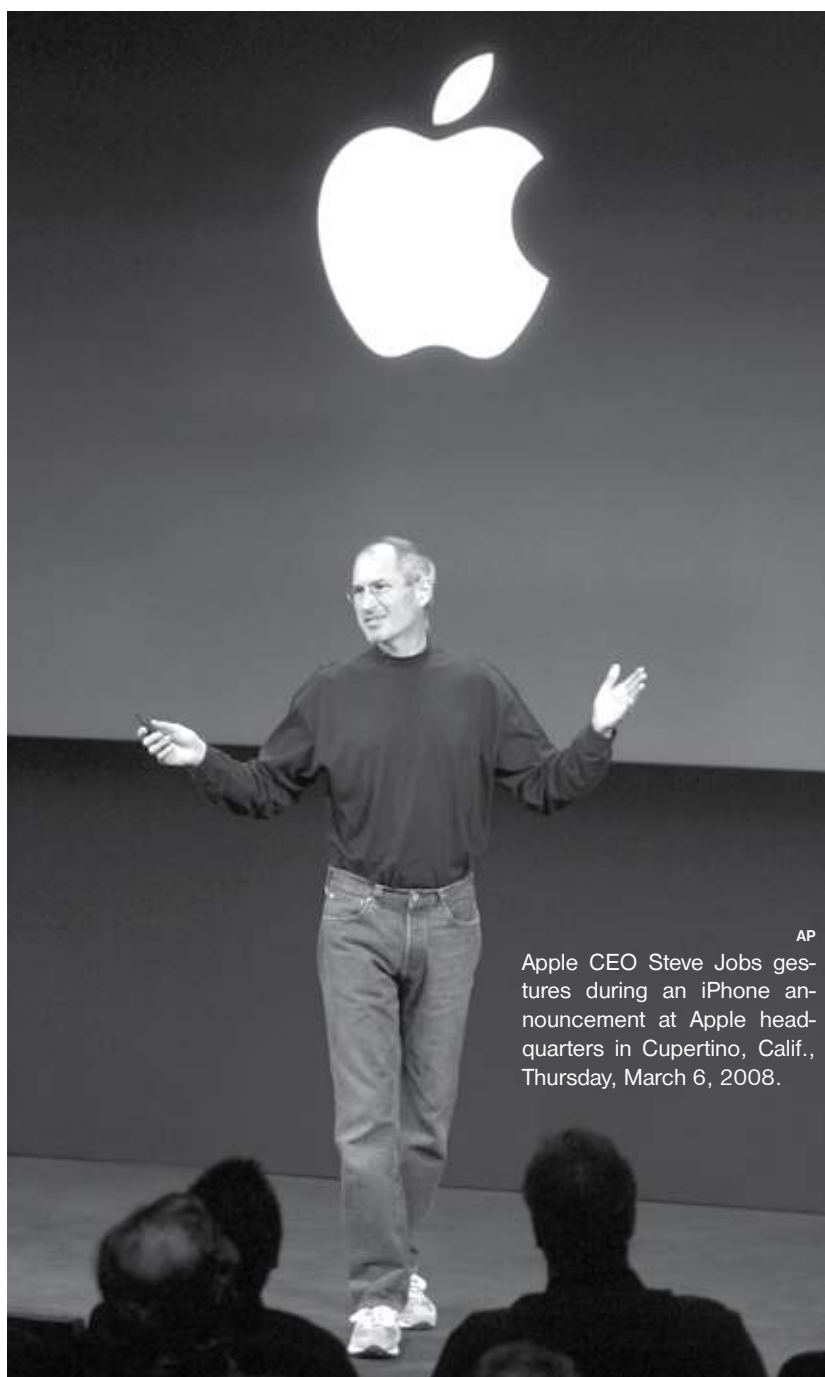
"I think it's a little far-fetched at this stage," said Tim Bajarin, president of technology consulting firm Creative Strategies in Campbell, Calif. "The studios still want to be compensated. And the artists, especially the independent artists, still want to be compensated. I'm skeptical that carte blanche, free access to any music may be in the works."

Only about 10 percent of Apple's revenues come through iTunes - about \$2.5 billion in 2007. But the store has been a critical tool for driving the more-lucrative iPod sales and helping musicians get paid for their work.

Apple sold \$8.3 billion in iPods last year, an 8 percent increase over the year before.

The success of iTunes has helped Apple become one of the world's biggest music retailers - it's currently the No. 2 music retailer in the U.S. behind Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

But it's also exposed Apple to criticism over how the company protects



AP
Apple CEO Steve Jobs gestures during an iPhone announcement at Apple headquarters in Cupertino, Calif., Thursday, March 6, 2008.

its content and prompted Apple to campaign for new ways to distribute music legally online.

The criticisms center on the inability to play songs bought on iTunes on rival products to the iPod, such as Microsoft Corp.'s Zune player.

To free up online music, Apple CEO Steve Jobs says the major record labels should strip protections known as Digital Rights Management, or DRM, technology, which prevents unauthorized copying, from their songs sold online. Apple, meanwhile, has refused to abandon its own copying protections.

Some of Apple's rivals are already trying out new approaches.

Nokia Corp., the world's largest mobile phone maker, announced a deal with Universal Music Group in December that gives buyers of certain Nokia phones unlimited free downloads of songs from the Universal catalog.

Seattle-based RealNetworks Inc. and Redmond, Wash.-based Microsoft both offer music subscriptions that cost \$14.99 per month that the companies believe will appeal to customers who are more interested in discovering new music than owning old favorites.

Neil Smith, a vice president of marketing for Rhapsody, said its subscribers delve deeper into back catalogs and check out more independent artists than typical in-person music store shoppers. Subscribers also buy more MP3s than non-subscribers.

"We believe that this kind of approach, where unlimited content can flow seamlessly across different devices and media, is the best thing for the consumer and the industry," said Microsoft spokesman Jason Reindorp. "It brings the focus back to where it should be - the music."

Grant to help expand rural telemedicine

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—In rural areas, where accessing health care is often a challenge, the doctors and patients of the future will increasingly be linked by virtual interstates.

That's the vision of Dr. Dale Alverson, who predicts clinics, hospitals and private doctors' offices will routinely be hooked into a computerized network for telemedicine, allowing specialists to review records of faraway patients, analyze tests remotely and consult doctors elsewhere.

"I believe, in the end, telehealth will be part of doing business in the health field, just like we use the telephone," said Alverson, medical director of the Center for Telehealth at the University of New Mexico's Health Sciences Center. "It won't be looked at as something unique or special; it's just what we do. ... Just as for many of us now it's second nature to use the Internet and the Web for health information."

A \$15.5 million grant from the Federal Communications Commission to the Center for Telehealth and Cybermedicine Research at the Health Sciences Center will be used to design, build, operate and evaluate a Southwest Telehealth Access Grid, a broadband network largely serving rural areas that typically lack such technology.

The grant to increase the bandwidth will be a boon to New Mexico, said Gary Bauerschmidt, UNM's director for information technology services and co-chairman of the network design and modeling committee.

"There's a lot of sites that have no connectivity or very poor connectivity," he said. "Telehealth is such an advantage here. Doctors just can't

travel around our state, and when you get to the reservations, it's even more challenging."

The grid of telehealth networks will support rural systems and connections to more than 500 sites, primarily in New Mexico and Arizona, along with several Indian Health Service sites in Colorado, California, Nevada, Texas and Utah.

"What this really means is a network of networks, a virtual electronic highway that allows you as a patient to access health care at a distance," Alverson said.

Eventually, telemedicine could make virtual house calls, he said. With an aging population and a related increase in chronic disease, "the shift is more to getting the care to the patient where they live," Alverson said.

Telemedicine isn't new. The Health Sciences Center has had programs for a dozen years and already connects to nearly 100 sites in 50 communities. It offers telemedicine services in behavioral health, substance abuse and developmental disabilities, among others.

But the grid offers a chance to expand.

"The idea with the FCC is not only to support our region, but eventually to connect these regions for a national telehealth network," Alverson said. The Southwest initiative was one of 69 nationwide the FCC funded.

A grid would not only improve the network for patient care and training health professionals, it would also allow people to switch into emergency mode for disasters or emergencies such as a flu pandemic, he said.

EU Internet: speeds up, prices down

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)—More than 50,000 European homes and offices added a high-speed broadband Internet connection every day last year, according to the European Commission.

Increasing competition has cut prices as Internet speeds increase, while mobile third-generation Internet services doubled last year to include 88 million users, some 20 percent of the EU's population, the commission said Wednesday.

Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands now top the world in their proportion of residents with broadband service, although the European Union as a whole

lags behind other regions with a "broadband penetration rate" of 20 percent.

More than half of broadband connections have speeds of 2 megabits to 10 megabits per second although a "significant" number of connections transmit data at 10 megabits per second.

Some 19 million broadband lines were added across Europe last year, generating revenues of \$98 billion for telecommunications companies.

But the EU criticized former state monopolies for keeping a tight grip on the telecommunications market, saying they hold nearly half of broadband lines

across the EU. It said newer rivals still have limited access to lines that would allow them to provide more connections to customers.

The European Commission also repeated a warning that mobile phone operators are charging customers too much for data roaming, Internet service and text messaging when they go abroad. Prices fell 14 percent when the EU imposed a cap on voice call roaming prices.

The telecommunications sector in the European Union was worth nearly \$473 billion last year, up 1.9 percent from 2006.

Cowardly robot steals show in Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP)—A robot with a cowardly streak took top honors at a conference on human-robot interaction in Amsterdam with antic displays intended to mimic human phobia.

Attendees at a competition this month of seven teams from technical universities around the world voted the "Phobot," designed by a team of students from the University of Amsterdam, their favorite.

When first exposed to a fear-inspiring object - in this case, a menacing larger robot - the Phobot retreats and then spins in circles. It overcomes its

"fear" by getting comfortable with small robots and working its way up to large ones - mimicking the psychological principle of "graded exposure."

"This robot is there as a sort of buddy to help a child having any kind of actual fear, doing it step by step," said team member Ork de Rooij. "The child would say, 'Hey, not only am I scared, but this robot is also scared, so maybe we can help each other.'"

All contestants used the same set of Lego robotics - with light, sound, touch and ultrasound sensors - plus National Instruments software.

The jury's prize - and second place in the popular vote - went to "Pot Bot," a device that monitors potted plants and determines whether they need water or sunlight. Its sensors find the strongest available light source, and it then signals people with that information using two handlike front panels.

"The robot acts as a mediator to make communication between humans and nature more fluid," said Sonya Kwak, who led a joint team from Carnegie Mellon University and the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology created Pot Bot.

US-Swedish carrier spat 'breaks' Net

NEW YORK (AP) -- President Bush famously spoke of "the Internets" in 2004. Well, they're here.

Since March 13, customers of two large Internet provid-

ers, Cogent Communications Group Inc. and TeliaSonera AB are unable to contact each other through the Internet, unless they have backup connections from other companies.

This means, for instance, that some U.S. Web sites hosted by Cogent customers are inaccessible to surfers in the Nordic countries, where Sweden-based TeliaSonera is the

largest telecommunications operator. It's like Cogent and TeliaSonera customers are on different Internets.

"Basically, parts of the Internet can't talk to each other," said

Earl Zmijewski, general Manager of the Internet data division at Renesys Corp., which keeps track of how carriers route traffic over the Internet.

It's not the first time this has happened: Now and then, Internet companies indulge in what Zmijewski calls playing "chicken." If they're fighting over a contract, they disconnect each other, and wait to see who blinks first. The number of irate customers each company faces will probably determine who does.

David Schaeffer, chief executive of Washington-based Cogent, said the two companies had a "peering" contract, under which they exchanged traffic from each other's customers, with neither company paying the other for access. But TeliaSonera continuously breached the terms of the contract by not exchanging traffic in certain locations, and refusing to upgrade connections that were saturated, Schaeffer said.

That forced Cogent traffic to take long detours, according to Schaeffer. For instance, it sometimes had to carry data from a Cogent customer in Europe across the Atlantic to the U.S., then hand it over to TeliaSonera, which carried it back across the Atlantic to its European destination.

Cogent cut its direct links to TeliaSonera on March 13. For a while, customers of the two companies were still able to connect indirectly, through interme-

diaries connected to Cogent and TeliaSonera, but that possibility disappeared on Friday, according to Renesys.

Schaeffer said the loss of alternate routes had nothing to do with Cogent, and speculated that TeliaSonera has refused to pay other providers for traffic destined for Cogent.

TeliaSonera did not comment on that allegation. Spokeswoman Maria Hillborg said the companies were trying to work out an agreement, and that a "requisite for that agreement is that TeliaSonera receives the compensation Cogent owes us."

Schaeffer denied that the companies were in negotiations.

Cogent has 15,000 customers, most of them large corporate, government and academic entities, who in turn provide "tens of millions" of people with Internet access. Most of the customers have backup links from other providers, or use the Cogent link as a backup to their main provider. Either way, they are still able to connect to TeliaSonera's 36.1 million direct customers through the other link.

Schaeffer said TeliaSonera's reluctance to improve the connections to Cogent were probably due to Cogent's recent expansion in the Nordic company's home territory.

"We've become much more aggressive as we have expanded our network about four months ago in Norway and Finland," Schaeffer said.

Blog catapults Japan's new literary star

TOKYO (AP)—Mieko Kawakami, a former bar hostess and bookstore clerk, was just another obscure singer until she started a blog.

Her poetic, street-wise writing stood out so starkly among Internet diaries in Japan—which, like those around the world, tend to be more informative or gossipy than narrative—that she is now Japan's biggest literary star.

The 31-year-old won this year's Akutagawa Award—named for "Rashomon" author Ryunosuke Akutagawa—which is Japan's most prestigious honor for a new writer.

There are more blog posts in Japanese than any other language, according to Technorati Inc., which tracks nearly 113 million blogs globally. Last year, Technorati found 37 percent of all postings were in Japanese—about 1.5 million per day. Postings in English—from Americans, Britons, Australians and people in many other countries—accounted for 36 percent of the total.

Kawakami is unusual in the extent of her success. But Steve Weber, an American who has written about marketing books online, said Japanese writers are far ahead of Americans in making their work available on the Internet. Many have had successful books published after producing novels intended to be read on mobile phones, for example.

In the U.S., publishers are just starting to understand the market power that writers with hit books can wield, Weber said.

"Popular bloggers are defi-

ON THE NET
Kawakami's blog:
<http://www.mieko.jp/>

nately being targeted by smart publishers because the publishers realize that the authors have already done the hard work of book marketing," he said in an e-mail from Falls Church, Va. "They've attracted the audience."

U.S. bloggers who have been picked up by major publishers include Julie Powell, author of "Julie and Julia: 365 Days, 524 Recipes, 1 Tiny Apartment Kitchen," which chronicles attempts at

Julia Child's classic recipes, and Colby Buzzell, a U.S. soldier in Iraq, who wrote "My War: Killing Time in Iraq."

Joichi Ito, Internet entrepreneur and Technorati board member, says Japanese tend to view blogs more as exchanges with friends and a personal outlet than as news sources as Americans do, for discussing politics, technology and other issues.

"More content in Japan is personal, and more content in the U.S. is media-like," he said.

Kawakami's readership has shot up from a handful of people when she started the blog

in 2003, to about 10,000 a day, soaring to 200,000 on Jan. 16, the day she won the Akutagawa. She writes in frenzied, urgent prose that gurgles with furor.

"At first, the blog was the only place I had for my writing," she said, confident in her gaze, despite looking frail in a mini-dress. "You know how many people are accessing it, and so you know right away when you've written something that's drawing interest."

She started the blog to draw attention to her music, but the early entries became her first book. Her third book won the Akutagawa.



Japanese writer Mieko Kawakami answers questions during an interview with The Associated Press in Tokyo Wednesday, March 5, 2008.

Rev up your wireless network

By **ROB PEGORARO**
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Just about any wireless router and computer made in the last few years supports two different kinds of WiFi: older and slower 802.11b and newer, faster 802.11g. (Check at the vendor's Web site to know for sure.) But since most routers are set to speak both the "b" and "g" dialects, your wireless network will run slower than it would in g-only operation. To change this setting, you'd either run whatever program configures the network (such as the AirPort Utility Apple provides for its AirPort routers) or type a special address into your Web browser (for example, 192.168.1.1 brings up the settings page of many Linksys and Netgear routers).

Change the network mode, and you should see much faster file transfers from one computer. While you're adjusting your router's settings, make sure you have a password set for it, and for your network, too, if you don't want neighbors borrowing your bandwidth.

■■■

Social-networking sites make it easy to keep your friends up-to-date on your life, but they can also broadcast your information to people you don't know. You should regularly check their privacy options to make sure you're not publicizing yourself more than you want. On Facebook, click the "Privacy" link at the top right corner of the page to see the dozens of different settings available. The most important ones are under the "Profile" category, but you

should also familiarize yourself with the site's "Limited Profile" feature, which lets you present a subset of your information to people outside your circle of close friends.

MySpace doesn't provide nearly as many options, but it's still worth checking them: Log into your account, click the "Settings" button in the box below your profile picture, and then click the "Privacy" link to adjust who can see your profile (everybody, everybody over 18, or only your friends) and if people can see when you're online.

■■■

The scheduled end of most analog-TV broadcasts—they'll vanish from the airwaves next Feb. 17—has many home viewers confused. Let me try again to summarize what you

need to do, depending on how you watch TV today. First: If you have a cable or satellite box, or if you already have a digital TV, you don't need to do anything. (Not sure if you own a "DTV"? Its remote should have a dash or a period button by the numbers to let you select digital-only sub-channels.) Second: If you have a "cable-ready" TV that gets cable without a cable box, you may someday need to get a box to watch more than the local networks—you need to ask your cable company about this. Third: If you have an analog TV connected to an antenna, you'll need to add a digital-TV converter box. These sell for \$50 or so, but the government is providing \$40 coupons towards their purchase, which you can request at dtv2009.gov or by calling 888-388-2009.

HELP FILE

By **ROB PEGORARO**
(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Q: My Dell has a 2.5 gigabytes of memory, but when I try to put the machine into hibernation, I often get a message that there are "Insufficient system resources to complete the API."

A: According to a tech-support article at Microsoft's site (support.microsoft.com/kb/909095), your problem can be blamed in part on your computer having so much memory. But the bulk of the blame goes to a bug in Windows XP that can be zapped with a small "hotfix" download from that page.

This file corrects a problem in computers with a gigabyte or more of memory, on which Windows can have trouble finding the large, uninterrupted block of free memory that it needs to prepare the computer for hibernation.

A shorter-term fix would be to ignore hibernation and put the computer into standby mode, a different sort of sleep in which it draws a little more electricity but should also wake up faster.

■■■
Q: My friend likes to send me the occasional joke e-mail with an animated picture, but the image doesn't move in my Mac's Mail program. I have to drag it over to Safari to see that. Any ideas on how to get the picture to animate in Mail?

A: This image is what's called an animated GIF. This format was once a popular way to liven up a Web page, and users of the IncrediMail e-mail program still often use it to illustrate messages.

Some programs, such as Mac OS X's Mail and Quick Look, will only show the first frame of the animation instead of playing the whole thing. If that bugs you, you could try switching to another mail program, such as Mozilla Thunderbird (mozilla.com). But unless you get these flashy messages all the time, it will probably be easier to drag the occasional animation over to your Web browser.

Life & Style

By CALVIN WOODWARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton was home in the White House on at least seven days when her husband had sexual encounters there with intern Monica Lewinsky, according to Sen. Clinton's schedule, released Wednesday among 11,000 pages of papers from her years as first lady.

The words of the schedules are dry, but they take on emotional weight when coupled with revelations about the sex scandal that eventually came to light. A year later, the schedules show her pressing ahead and showing her face at public events as revelations about the scandal upended her life and threatened Bill Clinton's presidency.

The papers also shed light on her struggle for health care reform early in the Clinton administration, her scaling back when that effort failed, her travels abroad and the legal woes that dogged the Clintons in the White House.

She also was an early champion of the North American Free Trade Agreement that she now criticizes in her campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. The papers show her holding at least five meetings in 1993 aimed at helping win congressional approval of the deal.

It's unlikely she would be surprised at this late date to learn that the president was cheating on her while she was home in the White House. But the release of the documents reminds voters anew about Bill Clinton's affair and the impeachment proceedings that brought Washington to a halt for a year.

The private crisis came at the most public of times for the first lady.

She had speeches scheduled, at home and abroad. She appeared by President Clinton's side at an education event where he angrily dismissed the reports of having sex with Lewinsky.

Her schedule has her choosing flowers for a black-tie dinner, congratulating "Guns Aren't Cool" award winners and reading to kids in the week in January 1998 when allegations of the scandal begin coming out. She denounced a "vast right-wing conspiracy" in a TV interview.

Almost a year earlier, the schedules show, she was home on Feb. 28, 1997, the day the report by Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr says Bill Clinton had a sexual encounter with Lewinsky in an Oval Office bathroom in the early evening, staining her blue dress.

Mrs. Clinton had "drop by" events or meetings in the Map Room and Diplomatic Reception Room between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. that day, according to her schedule. It also lists plays that night and a concert, but it's not clear whether she attended.

More than a year earlier, on Nov. 15, 1995, the first lady went to a mid-afternoon "meet & greet" photo opportunity at the White House with Nobel Laureates and their families. That night, Lewinsky had what she later said was her first sexual encounter with the president, in the private study off the Oval office.

On Jan. 21, 1996, the first lady and the president privately toured an exhibit at the National Gallery of Art. That afternoon, Lewinsky said, she and Bill Clinton had a sexual encounter in the hallway by the private study.

The schedules indicate Hillary Clinton was home on at least four other days when her husband and the intern got together.

Documents shed light on Lewinsky affair

no public events that weekend.

Before the Lewinsky ordeal, Mrs. Clinton faced her own legal troubles in 1996 during the criminal investigation of the Clintons' Whitewater real estate dealings in Arkansas.

In the Whitewater probe, one of the pivotal events occurred on

Jan. 4, 1996, a day in which Mrs. Clinton's personal calendar for late that afternoon is marked "Private Meeting" with her chief of staff, Margaret Williams.

Several hours earlier, an aide had discovered inside the White House family residence long-sought billing records of Mrs. Clinton's legal work on Whitewater-related real estate transactions that turned out to be fraudulent.

Furious prosecutors, who had subpoenaed the records 18 months earlier, ordered Mrs. Clinton to testify before a federal grand jury about the records. She appeared on Jan. 26, 1996.

Her calendar for Jan. 26 says "No Public Schedule," although the first lady stood before a bank of microphones in front of the federal courthouse in Washington, and declared: "I am happy to answer the grand jury's questions." Several hours of testimony she gave that day made her the first first lady to ever be hauled in for such questioning.

Neither the federal probe by Independent Counsel Starr nor Republican-led investigations on Capitol Hill were ever able to sort out why the records of Mrs. Clinton's work had never been turned over to investigators. She said she had no idea where the billing records had been.

Prosecutors concluded they did not have enough to prove she was a knowing participant in criminal conduct by others, including Whitewater business partner Jim McDougal.

Her Democratic presidential campaign released a statement Wednesday saying the schedules spanning her two terms as first lady "illustrate the array of substantive issues she worked on" and her travel to more than 80 countries "in pursuit of the administration's domestic and foreign policy goals."

Clinton says her years as first lady equip her to handle foreign policy and national security as president.

But the schedules show trips packed with plainly traditional activities for a first lady, along with some substance.

For example, in her January 1994 visit to Russia with her husband, her schedule is focused on events with other wives. She sat in on a birthing class at a hospital, toured a cathedral and joined

prominent women in a lunch of blinis with caviar and salmon.

The Clinton campaign said the schedules are merely a guide and don't reflect all of her activities.

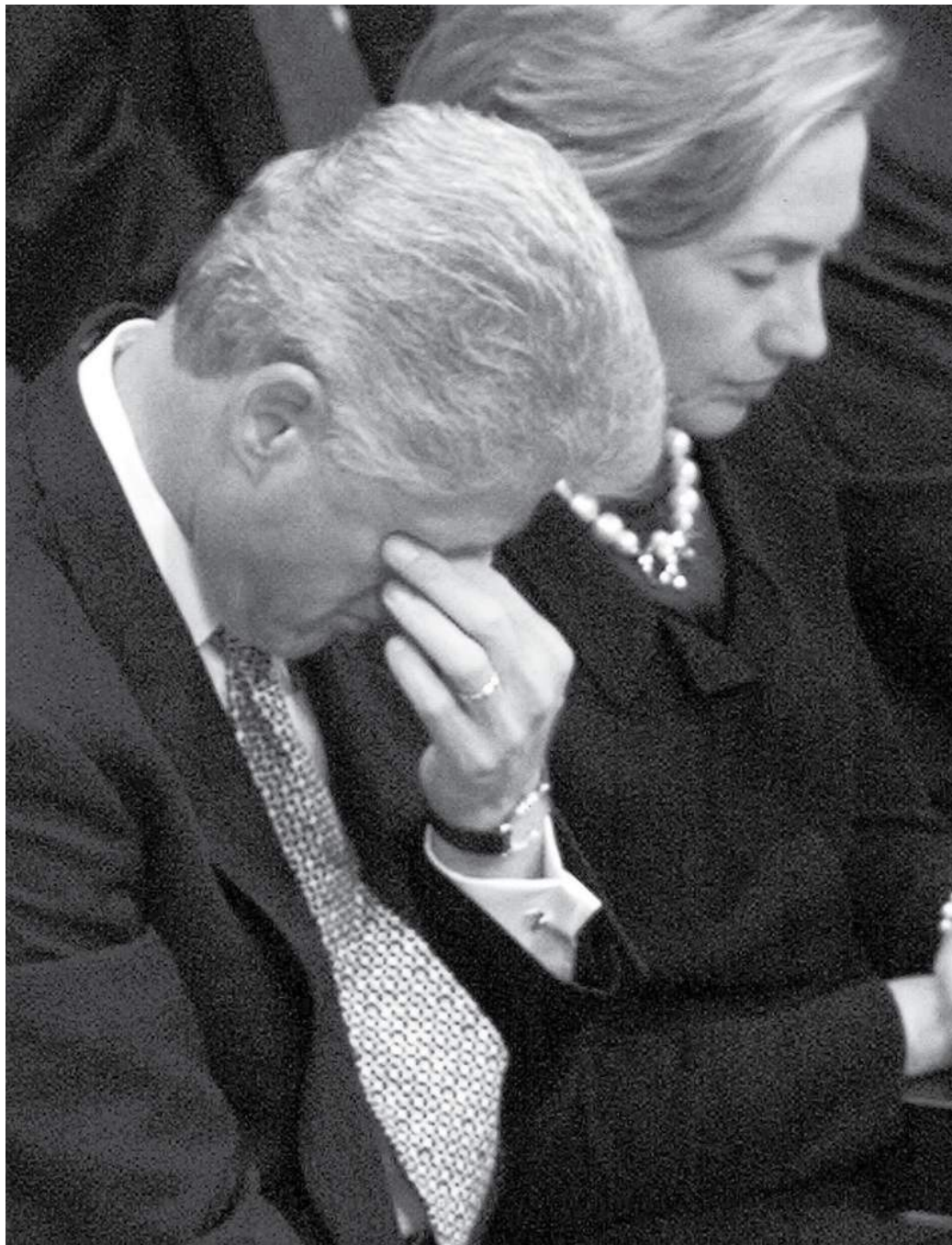
The papers show her tackling health care reform out of the gate in 1993, with a meeting three days after her hus-

band's inauguration and many more as the year went on, before her effort ultimately failed.

She also pushed NAFTA on multiple occasions, including one in November 1993 at a closed meeting with 120 participants. As a presidential candidate, she blames the pact for job losses and promises to renegotiate it.

Her White House policy role diminished markedly after the collapse of the health care initiative.

Associated Press writers Pete Yost, Sharon Theimer, Larry Margasak and Ann Sanner contributed to this report.



Former President Bill Clinton and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. The National Archives in Washington released Wednesday, March 19, 2008, more than 11,000 pages from Hillary Clinton's schedule as first lady.

More than a year earlier, on Nov. 15, 1995, the first lady went to a mid-afternoon "meet & greet" photo opportunity at the White House with Nobel Laureates and their families. That night, Lewinsky had what she later said was her first sexual encounter with the president, in the private study off the Oval office.

Twice, Mrs. Clinton was overseas at such times.

The National Archives released the papers in Washington and at the Clinton presidential library in Arkansas after months of pressure from critics who say the Clintons were delaying the disclosure. The issue has dogged her bid for the White House.

In all, 11,046 pages have been made available. Nearly 4,800 pages have parts blacked out. Archivists said that's to protect the privacy of third parties. Schedules for more than 30 days of activities were not included in this release.

Clinton, now New York senator, said in her memoir that she had little choice but to carry on with her appearances after the Lewinsky revelations. It was on Jan. 21, 1998, when her husband woke her up, sat on the edge of the bed and said, "There's something in today's papers you should know about." He told her of the reports of his relationship with the former intern, and she said she believed his denials.

But on Saturday, Aug. 15, 1998, with the investigation closing in on the real story, he woke her up again and owned up to his misbehavior. She said in her book that she was grateful there were

Monica Seles is working on memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—Former tennis great Monica Seles is working on a memoir.

She said in a statement Wednesday that she hopes “to share how I found balance, strength and happiness in my life after a rollercoaster ride of exhilarating accomplishment and sometimes overwhelming tragedy.”

The book, currently untitled, will be published in 2009 by Avery, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA).

Seles, 34, won nine Grand Slam tournaments and as a teenager was the top-ranked women’s player for three years, in the early 1990s. But she is also known for one of the sport’s most bizarre and terrifying incidents: In April 1993, at a tournament in Hamburg, Germany, she was stabbed in the back by a man who climbed out of the stands.

Seles returned to the game 27 months later and immediately reached the 1995 U.S. Open final. Her final Grand Slam title then



came at the 1996 Australian Open. She did reach two more major finals but was hampered by a left foot injury. Her last match was a first-round loss at the 2003 French Open. She officially retired last month.

Seles, who has struggled with weight problems, is currently a contestant on the hit ABC series “Dancing With the Stars.”

“After years of having every aspect of her training, diet and life dictated and scrutinized by others, Monica took control, deciding what she wanted from life and set out to obtain it,” her publisher, Avery, said in a statement.

“Cutting through the fog of sadness, fear and frustration that made Seles overweight and unhappy, today she looks and feels better than ever and has created a life in balance.”

Former tennis great Monica Seles is working on a memoir.

From Civil War historians, notable new insights

By LINDA WHEELER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The annual Lincoln Prize went this year to two authors of books on Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. An honorable mention was given to an author for her exhaustive study of what the common soldier thought about slavery.

The three books represent new contributions to the study of the 16th president and the Civil War at a time when there would seem to be little new to say. The winners are Elizabeth Brown Pryor for “Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee Through His Private Letters,” and James Oakes for “The Radical and the Republican: Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, and the Triumph of Antislavery Politics.” Chandra Manning got an honorable mention for “What This Cruel War Was Over: Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War.”

Pryor, a historian and diplomat, and Oakes, a history professor in the graduate school of the City University of New York, will receive \$20,000 each. Manning, an assistant professor of history at Georgetown University, will receive \$10,000. All three will be honored at a banquet in New York on April 1.

The Lincoln Prize, awarded since 1990 for the year’s best books on Lincoln and the Civil War, was co-founded and endowed by business leaders and philanthropists Richard Gilder and Lewis Lehrman, the principals of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York. The Lincoln and Soldiers Institute of Gettysburg College administers the awards.

Writing on the life and times of Lee before and after the war, Pryor says she read about 10,000 docu-

ments in her quest to understand Lee beyond the battlefield. In his personal letters, of which hundreds survived, Lee is not the stone-faced general of photographs and paintings but rather a likable guy who had a large family, worried about money and loved his job in the military — and beautiful women.

Interspersed with the letters and other documents, many unpublished until this book, Pryor takes “historical excursions,” using the material as a jumping-off point to discuss the customs and politics of the period. This allows her to place Lee in the

when his hair receded at a young age, he carefully combed it over to cover the bald spot, a habit he retained until his death.

“From the time he was sixteen he was his own barber, cutting his hair, moustache and beard with tiny snips each day so that he always looked the same — that is to say, perfect,” she wrote.

Pryor has written a lively book, an easy read and a significant contribution to understanding Lee and the Civil War period.

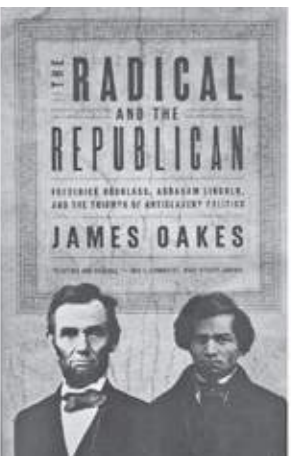
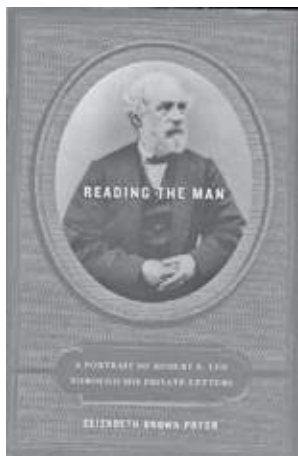
“The Radical and the Republican” is equally well researched and will

Lincoln took the bold step of inviting Douglass to the White House. When Lincoln was criticized for that, he invited Douglass a second time.

One influenced the other. Lincoln listened carefully to Douglass’s argument for the immediate emancipation of slaves and later for the recruitment of black soldiers. Two years before Douglass’s death in 1895, he said he had met no man “possessing a more godlike nature than Abraham Lincoln.”

“What This Cruel War Was Over” is an impressive and exhaustive examination of the opinions held on slavery by ordinary soldiers fighting on each side of the war and how they evolved. Much of what Manning reports counters a common belief that for the Confederates, the war was not about slavery until Lincoln made it so with his Emancipation Proclamation. She says slavery was always the issue for Southern soldiers, irrespective of whether they owned slaves, because of the social structure of Southern life. She says black slaves made all Southern white men, rich or poor, equal in their unenslaved status. It was the soldiers’ “gut-level conviction that survival — of themselves, their families and the social order — depended on slavery’s continued existence.”

On the Union side, she finds soldiers joining the army to end slavery and others supporting that position after exposure to slavery during the war. Some, she writes, came to that conclusion only after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. She says those who supported emancipation “knew that emancipation was necessary to save the Union but also because they now recognized that it was necessary to make the Union worth saving.”



THE WASHINGTON POST

The two books honored this year with the prestigious Lincoln Prize explore the personality and thinking of Robert E. Lee, left, and the relationship between Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. An honorable mention went to a book, right, that examines in detail views on slavery among ordinary soldiers who fought in the civil war. The annual prize has been awarded since 1990.

context of his time and not to judge him by modern standards.

Among her discoveries were Lee’s extravagant flirtations in letters to women, done mostly with the knowledge of his wife, Mary, who often added brief notes at the end of the letters. He addressed women as “my beautiful” and teasingly inquired about a wedding night or said he was all alone and missed them.

He was considered handsome. Pictures taken in the 1850s show a man with dark hair and a mustache who dressed in the fashion of the day. Pryor notes that Lee was conscious of his good looks and that

appeal more to the serious student of the war. Oakes set out to tell how Lincoln and Douglass, two extraordinary and powerful personalities with strong differences, made common cause during the Civil War.

Lincoln arrived in Washington with the conviction that slavery should not be spread into the new territories of the West. Although he hated slavery, he allowed it to exist where it was established, anticipating its inevitable extinction. Douglass, a former slave living in Washington, was an articulate and persuasive orator who was fiercely opposed to slavery anywhere in the country.

BEST SELLERS

Nonfiction

(c) 2008 Los Angeles Times The rankings for hard-cover books sold in Southern California, as reported by selected book stores:

- The Third Jesus**, by Deepak Chopra (Harmony: \$24) Chopra makes a case for a more modern, and mystical, interpretation of Jesus Christ.
- Beautiful Boy**, by David Sheff (Houghton Mifflin: \$24) A father recounts his talented son’s descent into methamphetamine addiction.
- Losing It**, by Valerie Bertinelli (Free Press: \$26) How the teen TV star then rock musician’s wife got her life back and became a diet-plan spokeswoman.
- The Secret**, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: \$23.95) Life’s secrets distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.
- The Age of American Unreason**, by Susan Jacoby (Pantheon: \$26) A history of American society’s descent into anti-intellectual junk culture.
- Hope’s Boy**, by Andrew Bridge (Hyperion: \$22.95) An advocate for children tells the harrowing story of his life in the foster-care system.
- Born Standing Up**, by Steve Martin (Scribner: \$25) The comedian reflects on the evolution of his art.
- In Defense of Food**, by Michael Pollan (Penguin Press: \$21.95) A look at dietary sacred cows.
- The Zookeeper’s Wife**, by Diane Ackerman (W.W. Norton: \$24.95) How the Warsaw Zoo director and his wife sheltered Polish Jews during World War II.
- I Am America**, by Stephen Colbert (Grand Central: \$26.99) The Colbert Report star expounds on the forces destroying the country.

Fiction

- The Appeal**, by John Grisham (Doubleday: \$27.95) A billionaire enlists political help to kill a \$41-million jury award over toxic-waste dumping.
- The Reserve**, by Russell Banks (Harper: \$24.95) Romance among New York’s elite in the 1930s.
- L.A. Outlaws**, by T. Jefferson Parker (Dutton: \$25.95) A teacher doubles as a thief on L.A.’s mean streets.
- Betrayal**, by John Lescroart (Dutton: \$26.95) Prosecutor Dismas Hardy finds Iraq war links to an ex-Navy SEAL’s death.
- The Outlaw Demon Wails**, by Kim Harrison (Eos: \$24.95) Rachel Morgan fends off evil forces as she copes with her boyfriend’s murder.
- People of the Book**, by Geraldine Brooks (Viking: \$25.95) A rare-books expert traces the history of a priceless Jewish tome to 15th century Spain.
- 7th Heaven**, by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro (Little, Brown: \$27.99) Detective Lindsay Boxer seeks a murderous arsonist and a missing teen.
- Beautiful Children**, by Charles Bock (Random House: \$25) A comic book artist and his stripper wife search Las Vegas for their 12-year-old son.
- World Without End**, by Ken Follett (Dutton: \$35) Children jockey for power in 14th century England.
- An Incomplete Revenge**, by Jacqueline Winspear (Henry Holt: \$24) Maisie Dobbs finds prejudice and troubling secrets in an English village.

Journalism Net effect defies expectation

NEW YORK (AP)—The Internet has profoundly changed journalism, but not necessarily in ways that were predicted even a few years ago, a study on the industry released Sunday found.

It was believed at one point

that the Net would democratize the media, offering many new voices, stories and perspectives. Yet the news agenda actually seems to be narrowing, with many Web sites primarily packaging news that is produced elsewhere, according

to the Project for Excellence in Journalism's annual State of the News Media report.

Two stories—the war in Iraq and the 2008 presidential election campaign—represented more than a quarter of the stories in newspapers, on television and online last year, the project found.

Take away Iraq, Iran and Pakistan, and news from all of the other countries in the world combined filled up less than 6 percent of the American news hole, the project said.

The news side of the business is dynamic, but the growing ability of news consumers to find what they want without being distracted by advertising is what's making the industry go

through some tough times.

“Although the audience for traditional news is maintaining itself, the staff for any of these news organizations tend to be shrinking,” said Tom Rosenstiel, the project's director.

NBC News' recent decision to name make David Gregory host of a nightly program on MSNBC while keeping his job as White House correspondent is an example of how people are being asked to do much more, he said.

News is less a product, like the day's newspaper or a nightly newscast, than a service that is constantly being updated, he said. Last week, for instance, The New York Times posted its first report linking New York

Gov. Eliot Spitzer to a prostitution ring in the early afternoon, and it quickly became the day's dominant story.

Only a few years ago, newspaper Web sites were primarily considered an online morgue for that day's newspaper, Rosenstiel said.

“The afternoon newspaper is in a sense being reborn online,” he said.

A separate survey found journalists are, to a large degree, embracing the changes being thrust upon them. A majority say they like doing blogs and that they appreciate reader feedback on their stories. When they're asked to do multimedia projects, most journalists find the experience enriching instead

of feeling overworked, he said. The newsroom is increasingly being seen as the most experimental place in the business, the report found.

Most news Web sites are no longer final destinations. The report found that many users insist that the sites, and even individual pages, offer plenty of options to navigate elsewhere for more information, the project found. Rosenstiel said he's even able to reach Washington Post stories through the New York Times' Web site.

In another unexpected finding, citizen-created Web sites and blogs are actually far less welcoming to outside commentary than the so-called mainstream media, the report said.

Amy Sedaris always cracks wise

By JENNIFER FREY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

She's routinely described as having a subversive wit, and many of her memorable performances are as herself on late-night talk shows, where she has expounded on her imaginary boyfriend and her (real) cheeseball- and cupcake-making business. Oh, and there's that whole thing about being the sister of famous author David. But in her newest movie, “Snow Angels,” Amy Sedaris takes on a serious dramatic role in a dark picture by David Gordon Green. She calls from Los Angeles to discuss this latest artistic endeavor.



Sedaris

Q: When you first saw the script and how it's a pretty dark drama, did you feel like this was going to be a big departure for you?

A: Yes, but I'm drawn to the darker side of things. You could get me to read a drama before a comedy. But I was a little surprised (director Green) asked me to do it. ... Then, it's not like I have to fight attackers off me and have a huge crying scene.

Q: Well, you did still get to have a smart mouth, and curse a lot, and even throw dishes!

A: Breakaway china! That's always in my contract. I always get to throw something. ... At least, we always put it in the script saying I have to break something, and whether or not it actually happens, they buy it, so I get to have it.

Q: In the film, they certainly gave you one heck of a dirty, lying, cheating man, didn't they?

A: Oh, I know. I kept forgetting I had a husband. Then I'd see him in a scene and I was like, oh yeah. He was funny.

Q: At the end of the movie, you're pretty much held up as the paragon of the good person with the good heart.

A: Yeah, right. It's scripted. Don't forget that.

Q: What do you have coming up next?

A: A writing project, but I usually tell people I'm trying to have a baby, and then they just shut up because all these things go through their head, like “Oh my God, trying? What does that mean?” especially because I'm single and I'm not seeing anybody. And then they have to think about me naked. So, yeah, it usually shuts them up.



In Celebration of His New Life Jose Igibor (Maguines) Seman

Born on November 10, 1926

Was called to his eternal rest by our Lord on
Sunday, March 16, 2008 at the age of 81

IN HIS NEW LIFE, HE NOW JOINS HIS:

PARENTS: Vicente Parong & Jacoba Igibor Maguines Seman

Sister / Brothers and Spouses:

Ramona S. Chong / Felipe M & Maria T. Seman /
Joaquin M & Maria C. Seman / Juan M. & Esperanza T. Seman /
Odorico M. Seman / Vicente M. Seman / Lorenzo L.G. Iriarte

PARENTS-IN-LAW: Guillermo Villagomez & Carmen Manahane Benavente

Brothers and Sister-in-Law & Spouses:

Antonio M & Victoria M. Benavente / Fernando M & Faustina S. Benavente / Ana B. & Felipe C. Aldan /
Ignacio M & Isabel A. Benavente / Roman M. & Dolores T. Benavente / Rudy Sedmik

Son: Joseph B. Seman

HIS MEMORY WILL LIVE ON IN THE HEARTS OF HIS:

Wife: Margarita Benavente Seman

Sons/Daughters & Families:

Nicolas & Dolly Muna (Michelle, Elaine/Oscar, Jason, Nick Jr., Raymond & Nicole)
Catalino & Lucy Sanchez (Catherine & Craig)
Oscar & Patricia S. Rasa (Diego/Jennifer, Vania/Tony, Oscar II, Margaret/Lino)
Mario & Vivian S. Taitano (Valerie)
Benjamin B. & Dorothy T. Seman (Benjamin Jr., Darriette & Deeshya)
Richard B. & Lorraine M. Seman (Vincyia/Jeff, Ricky, John, Anthony & Lorisha)
Joseph Zachary B. Seman

Reared Children: Thelma B. Inos (Rufin) and Family, James Benavente

Sister: Lucia Seman Iriarte (†Lorenzo)

Brother-in-Law: Dr. Jose L. Chong (†Ramona)

Sisters/Brothers-in-Law: Rosa B & Takesi Royal / Maria B & †Rudy Sedmik /
Bernadita B & Charles Helstrom

Caregiver: Rose Capinpin

He will also be missed by numerous Grand Children, Great Grand Children, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass and Holy Rosary is being offered on the following:

March 17th, 18th, 19th (Mass will be at 11:45 a.m. at St. Jude Church and Rosary will be said at 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church)

March 20th (Mass will be at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church and Rosary will be said at 8:00 p.m. at the family residence in As Lito)

March 21st (No Mass and Rosary will be said at 7:00 p.m. at the family residence in As Lito).

March 22nd (Rosary will be said at 12:00 noon at the family residence in As Lito and Mass will be at 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church).

March 23rd (Mass will be at 8:00 a.m. and Rosary will be said at 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church).
On the final day Monday March 24th 2008, His remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home in San Jose to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:00 a.m. followed by responso & Holy Rosary. Viewing will be from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Mass of the Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00 a.m., followed by burial at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Your Thoughts & Prayers will be greatly appreciated
From the Family**

Second Death Anniversary

We the family of the late

**Carmen
Mendiola
Torres**

would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the second death anniversary of my beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother unto eternal life.

Daily mass and rosary will be offered at Saint Jude Church on the following dates and times:

		<u>Mass</u>	<u>Rosary</u>
Monday, March 24	Saint Jude Church	6:00pm	6:30pm
Tuesday, March 25	Saint Jude Church	6:00pm	6:30pm
Wednesday, March 26	Saint Jude Church	6:00pm	6:30pm
Thursday, March 27	Saint Jude Church	6:00pm	6:30pm
Friday, March 28	Saint Jude Church	6:00pm	6:30pm
Saturday, March 29	Saint Jude Church	7:00am	6:30pm
Sunday, March 30	Saint Jude Church	8:00am	6:30pm
Monday, March 31	Saint Jude Church	6:00pm	6:30pm
Tuesday, April 1st	Saint Jude Church	6:00pm	5:00pm

On the final day, Tuesday, April 01, 2008, rosary will be at 5:00pm and the Eucharistic Mass celebration will be at 6:00pm at St. Jude Church. Dinner will be served immediately after the mass at Monsignor Martinez Social Hall.

Your presence and prayers will be greatly appreciated
Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

GINEN AS RAFAEL V. TORRES AND CHILDREN



Photographer Jones Griffiths dies at 72

LONDON (AP)—Philip Jones Griffiths, a photojournalist who spent years traveling across Vietnam to capture the effects of the war on its people, died Wednesday. He was 72.

Jones Griffiths, a former president of the Magnum photo agen-

cy, died of cancer at his London home, said the agency's commercial director, Rhiannon Davies.

Jones Griffiths was perhaps best known for his book "Vietnam Inc." - described as one of the most detailed studies of any conflict.

In one of the book's most haunting photos, he captured the image of a naked, young boy cowering and covering his ears to drown out the sound of a passing U.S. helicopter. He wrote that the unnamed boy went mad after

witnessing his mother killed by a helicopter gunship.

"If anybody in Washington had read that book, we wouldn't have had these wars in Iraq or Afghanistan," linguist and author Noam Chomsky said of "Vietnam Inc."

Jones Griffiths was born in Rhuddlan, Wales, and studied pharmacy in Liverpool. His career as a photojournalist began with a part-time job for Britain's Guardian newspaper.

In 1961, he began shooting full time as a freelancer for The Observer newspaper.

He shot his first war photos in Algeria in 1962 before moving to Central Africa. He eventually ended up in Asia and joined Magnum as an associate member in 1966, beginning five years documenting the Vietnam war.

He covered the 1973 Yom Kippur war and then worked in Cambodia from 1973 to 1975.

Jones Griffiths moved to New

York in 1980 to become Magnum's president, a post he held for five years.

"Philip enriched all our lives with his courage, his empathy, his passion, his wit and his wisdom; and for many he gave to photojournalism its moral soul," Magnum President Stuart Franklin said. "He died as he wanted so passionately that we should live - in peace."

Jones Griffiths is survived by two daughters.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of

DANIEL JOSEPH O'CONNOR III

Better Known As: Dan

Born to Life on December 10, 1948.
Daniel was called by his Creator
on March 14, 2008

In paradise, he will join his

Father: Daniel Joseph O'Connor II

Survived by:

Wife: Emma R. O'Connor

Mother: Louise O'Connor

Brother: Paul O'Connor

Daughter: Mary Elizabeth O'Connor

Stepson: Jemmeniel Recorte

Dan also leaves behind numerous friends and he will be greatly missed by his PTI family and friends.

Nightly rosary is being prayed at 6:00 p.m. at the family residence in Susupe behind Calvo's Nursery. Viewing will be held on Monday, March 24, 2008 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at San Jose Parish. His remains will be flown to the Philippines Tuesday morning.

Your presence and prayers are appreciated.

Emma O'Connor & Family

TOP TENS

Top 10 Pop Singles

1. Usher feat. Young Jeezy No. 51 "Love in This Club" (LaFace)
2. Flo Rida feat. T-Pain No. 1 "Low" (Poe Boy)
3. Chris Brown No. 2 "With You" (Jive)
4. Rihanna No. 3 "Don't Stop the Music" (SRP/Def Jam)
5. Sara Bareilles No. 4 "Love Song" (Epic)
6. Jordin Sparks duet with Chris Brown No. 13 "No Air" (19/Jive)
7. Timbaland feat. OneRepublic No. 6 "Apologize" (Mosley/Blackground)
8. Alicia Keys No. 5 "No One" (MBK/J)
9. Webbie, Lil' Phat & Lil' Boosie No. 10 "Independent" (Trill/Asylum)
10. Snoop Dogg No. 7 "Sensual Seduction" (DoggyStyle/Geffen)

Top 10 Albums

1. Janet new entry "Discipline" (Island)
2. Erykah Badu new entry "New Amerykah: Part One (4th World War)" (Universal Motown)
3. Jack Johnson No. 1 "Sleep Through the Static" (Brushfire)
4. Webbie new entry "Savage



Rihanna has a spot at No. 3 with "Don't Stop the Music."

Life 2" (Trill/Asylum/Atlantic)

5. Alicia Keys No. 2 "As I Am" (MBK/J)

6. Miley Cyrus No. 13 "Hannah Montana 2 (Soundtrack) Meet Miley Cyrus" (Walt Disney/Hollywood)

7. Soundtrack No. 31 "Once" (Canvasback/Sony Music Soundtrax)

8. Soundtrack No. 6 "Juno" (Fox/Rhino)

9. Sara Bareilles No. 7 "Little Voice" (Epic)

10. Amy Winehouse No. 3 "Back to Black" (Universal Republic)

Top 10 Hot Country Singles

1. Carrie Underwood No. 5 "All-American Girl" (Arista)
2. Rodney Atkins No. 1 "Cleaning This Gun (Come On In Boy)" (Curb)
3. Alan Jackson No. 4 "Small Town Southern Man" (Arista Nashville)
4. Kenny Chesney No. 2 "Shiftwork" (BNA)
5. Chuck Wicks No. 7 "Stealing Cinderella" (RCA)
6. Trace Adkins No. 10 "You're Gonna Miss This" (Capitol Nashville)
7. Gary Allan No. 6 "Watching Airplanes" (MCA Nashville)
8. George Strait No. 12 "I Saw God Today" (MCA Nashville)
9. Chris Cagle No. 9 "What Kinda Gone" (Capitol Nashville)
10. Jason Aldean No. 14 "Laughed Until We Cried" (Broken Bow)

TOP TEN MOVIES

1. 10,000 B.C. (PG-13) Steven Strait, Camilla Belle

2. College Road Trip (G) Martin Lawrence, Raven-Symone
3. Vantage Point (PG-13) Dennis Quaid, Matthew Fox
4. Semi-Pro (R) Will Ferrell, Woody Harrelson
5. The Bank Job (R) Jason Statham, Saffron Burrows
6. The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) Freddie Highmore, Mary-Louise Parker
7. The Other Boleyn Girl (PG-13) Natalie Portman, Eric Bana
8. Jumper (PG-13) Hayden Christensen, Samuel L. Jackson
9. Step Up 2 the Streets (PG-13) Briana Evigan, Adam G. Sevani
10. Fool's Gold (PG-13) Matthew McConaughey, Kate Hudson

TOP TEN VIDEO, DVD

Top 10 Video Rentals

1. Beowulf (PG-13) Ray Winstone (Paramount)
2. American Gangster (R) Denzel Washington (Universal)
3. Michael Clayton (R) George Clooney (Warner)
4. 30 Days of Night (R) Josh Hartnett (Sony Pictures)
5. Gone Baby Gone (R) Casey Affleck (Disney/Miramax)
6. We Own the Night (R) Joaquin Phoenix (Sony Pictures)
7. Rendition (R) Omar Metwally (New Line)
8. The Darjeeling Limited (R) Owen Wilson (Fox)
9. Death at a Funeral (R) Matthew Macfadyen (Fox/MGM)
10. In The Valley of Elah (R) Tommy Lee Jones (Warner)

Top 10 DVD Sales

1. American Gangster (R) (Universal)
2. Michael Clayton (R) (Warner)
3. Why Did I Get Married (PG-13) (Lionsgate)
4. Snow Buddies (G) (Walt Disney)
5. We Own the Night (R) (Sony Pictures)
6. No Reservations (PG) (Warner)
7. Chaos (R) (Lionsgate)
8. Gone Baby Gone (R) (Miramax)
9. Across the Universe (PG-13) (Sony Pictures)
10. Rendition (R) (New Line)

(c) 2008 King Features Synd., Inc.

Tragic Loss

by: Sara Techur Tennell

I personally never knew the feeling of losing a loved one. Until one day, underneath a bright mean sun. The clouds stood still. While the soft wind blew through the hill. My heart dropped hard to the ground. When I found out what my brother Donovan had found. On his birthday, he finds, floating lifelessly in the calm ocean of Guam, the "unimaginable". Our big brother Dean, in the state of "unable".

We were asking why and how? Still in disbelief, pain shocked our hearts, tears shed like rain and our heads we bow.

The families are in raging pain. And our dear mother is shedding tears like mad rain. Families and friends are wishing to pay their respect the proper "local" way.

We all know that our poor brother is torn in two. As he watches two families in a twirling bind that he won't be able to undo.

At this point we are left with only memories. But "we" the family who knew him by heart: the memories he left, good or bad, it all turned into amazing stories.

One of the lessons I had learned from this tragic loss. No matter what the situation you had between you and your mother, at the end of the day she is still the "BOSS"

A mother's heart is not something you mess with, especially when she loses a child, she loved, cared and gave life to. Because believe and understand that the "Lord" is not sleeping. When you take advantage of hurting people, just because you think you can, in life and reality something a lot more painful and harsh will come right back to you.

So to all friends and families who knew, cared and loved "Dean Kapileo," just let it be....let it go.... for our brother shall rest in peace.

We all love you Dean Anthony Quitugua Kapileo !!!!!



Dean Anthony Quitugua Kapileo

June 7, 1975-March 7, 2008

We the family of the late Dean Anthony Q. Kapileo would like to extend our sincerest & deepest appreciation for all your support and prayers during our time of tragic loss.

May He Rest In Peace

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisou, Kirisou Chapur, Kommol & Kom Kmal Mesulang

Film of Spitzer call girl in question



Afghan singer Lima Sahar right, performs during a rehearsal at the Tolo TV office in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, March 12, 2008.

Woman vies to become first 'Afghan Star'

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—In a first for post-Taliban Afghanistan, a woman from the conservative Pashtun belt is one of the top three contenders in the country's version of "American Idol."

Conservative detractors decry the fact an Afghan woman has found success singing on television, while others—younger Afghans—say the show is helping women progress. Under the Taliban regime that was overthrown in 2001, women were not even allowed out of their homes unaccompanied, while music and television were banned.

With her hair tucked under a wispy blue headscarf, Lima Sahar brushes off her critics, saying there can be no progress for women without upsetting the status quo.

"No pain, no gain," she told reporters Wednesday in Kabul.

Sahar beat out 2,000 other hopefuls who auditioned for the third season of "Afghan Star." On Friday, the six-month-long TV show will name the final two contestants, based on votes sent in from viewers via text message. The format is the same as "Ameri-

can Idol," although the shows are not connected.

Afghanistan's conservative cleric's council has protested to President Hamid Karzai over "Afghan Star" and Indian dramas shown on Tolo TV, the country's most popular station.

"In the situation that we have in Afghanistan right now, we don't need a woman singer. We don't need 'Afghan Star.' We are in need of a good economy, good education," said Ali Ahmad Jebra-ali, a member of the council. "If Lima Sahar wins 'Afghan Star,' how can she help the poor? This is not the way to help the Afghan people."

Haji Baran Khan, a farmer from Kandahar—the Taliban's spiritual birthplace and the city Sahar now calls home—said a Pashtun girl singing on TV goes against the country's culture.

"She is also affecting the minds of other good girls. She should stop singing," said Khan, whose three sons and two daughters told him about Sahar's success.

Sahar says she's just the latest in a long tradition of Afghan artists—albeit in a more modern form.

"Artists are historical and

cultural in our country. Artists have been around a long time," Sahar told a news conference this week. "I came by the vote of the people of Afghanistan."

Several hundred supporters lined up to get the three finalists' autographs at an event this week in Kabul. One of the fans, Shohabidin Mohammad, called "Afghan Star" part of a democratic revival for Afghanistan.

"Women's and men's rights are equal. There are no problems," said Mohammad, dressed in a bright colored shirt, brown hipster hat and a gold necklace that dangles a tiny Koran.

The three finalists represent each of Afghanistan's three main ethnic groups: Pashtuns, Hazaras and Tajiks. Mohammad, who is ethnic Hazara, said he doesn't believe ethnicity should play a role in the vote. But, he acknowledged somewhat sheepishly, he will vote for the Hazara finalist.

Standing beside Mohammad was Abass Nariwal, a fan of Sahar's. Both are ethnic Pashtuns. Another of her fans, Nematullah Khan, is a 25-year-old student at Kandahar University.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A \$1 million offer to the call girl linked to former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer was rescinded because she'd already shot footage for "Girls Gone Wild." Now it might be the video maker who will lose out.

A lawyer for Ashley Alexandra Dupre, now 22, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Dupre was 17 when the footage was filmed. After hearing from her attorney, the company said the video's Internet release will be delayed.

"Girls Gone Wild" founder Joe Francis originally reached out to Dupre, offering \$1 million for her to appear in a non-nude spread for his company's new magazine and a chance to join the "Girls Gone Wild" tour bus.

But on Tuesday "Girls Gone

Wild" employees found archived footage of Dupre filmed in 2003, and Francis retracted the offer.

In a statement Wednesday, Francis said he had received an e-mail from Dupre's lawyer Don Buchwald, saying Dupre may have been 17 in the videos shot in Miami and not 18 as Francis had first claimed.

In an e-mail to one of Francis' publicists—forwarded by Buchwald to the AP—the attorney said he was "informed by Ashley that the video was in fact taken when she was underage (that is 17)."

Buchwald added in the e-mail that Francis was aware of Dupre's age during the filming.

Francis said he bought Dupre a Greyhound bus ticket back home to North Carolina in 2003. Dupre returned home after she spent a week on the "Girls Gone

Wild" bus in Miami and filmed seven full-length tapes, which included nudity, after signing legal papers, the company said.

"It was because she was underage that he sent her home on a Greyhound bus back to North Carolina. It would be outrageous at the very least to play the video of an underage female on the Internet," Buchwald said in the e-mail.

Francis said all nude images of Dupre were taken in public places and contain no sexual contact.

He added that his company has a "corporate policy" not to use individuals under 18 in their videos. Given this policy, the company delayed the release of Dupre's footage on the Internet. The company was "investigating the matter" and "will make our decision shortly," Francis said.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies. GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000



\$4.75 Bargain Matinees—All Shows Before 6PM
\$4.00 All Day Admission For Seniors & Kids
\$5.00 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
\$5.00 Military with valid ID

THRIFTY TUESDAYS

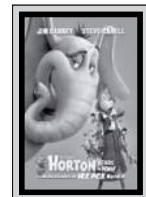
\$4.75 ADMISSION ALL DAY TUESDAYS
 EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS FOR FILMS WITH A (T)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT WWW.GOHOLLYWOOD.COM



For Friday, March 21 through Thursday, March 27 only!

★ ★ ★ **NOW SHOWING** ★ ★ ★



Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears A Who
 Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
 Saturday 1:15 4:20 7:05 9:35
 Sunday 1:15 4:20 7:05
 Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:05
Jim Carrey (v), Steve Carell (v)
 Family, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis
 An imaginative elephant named Horton hears a faint cry for help coming from a tiny speck of dust floating through the air. Although Horton doesn't know it yet, that speck houses an entire city named Who-ville, inhabited by the microscopic Whos, led by the Mayor. Despite being ridiculed and threatened by his neighbors, who think he has lost his mind, Horton is determined to save the particle—because "a person's a person, no matter how small!"



Never Back Down
 Friday 4:25 7:35 9:35
 Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:30 9:55
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:30
 Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:30
Sean Faris, Djimon Hounsou
 Action, Drama • Rated PG13

Synopsis
 Jake Tyler has recently moved to Orlando, Florida with his family to support his younger brother's shot at a professional tennis career. Jake was a star athlete on the football team at home, but in this new city he is an outsider with a reputation for being a quick tempered brawler. Making an attempt to fit in, at the invitation of a flirtatious classmate, Baja, Jake goes to a party where he is unwittingly pulled into a fight with a bully named Ryan McDonald.



10,000 BC
 Friday 4:30 7:10 9:50
 Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:10 9:50
 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:10
 Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:10
Omar Sharif, Steven Strait
 Drama, Adventure • Rated PG13

Synopsis
 In a remote mountain tribe, the young hunter D'Leh has found his heart's passion—the beautiful Evolet. But when a band of mysterious warlords raid his village and kidnap Evolet, D'Leh leads a small group of hunters to pursue the warlords to the end of the world to save her. As they venture into unknown lands for the first time, the group discovers there are civilizations beyond their own and that mankind's reach is far greater than they ever knew.



Rambo
 Friday 4:10 7:15 10:00
 Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:15 10:00
 Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:15
 Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15
Sylvester Stallone, Julie Benz
 Action, Adventure • Rated R



Vantage Point
 Friday 4:15 7:00 9:45
 Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:00 9:45
 Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:00
 Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:00
Dennis Quaid, Forest Whitaker
 Drama, Thriller • Rated PG13



The Spiderwick Chronicles
 Friday 4:00 7:20 9:30
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:20 9:30
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:20
 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:20
Seth Rogen, Mary-Louise Parker
 Fantasy, Children • Rated PG13



Jumper
 Friday 4:05 7:25 9:40
 Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:25 9:40
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:25
 Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:25
Hayden Christensen, Samuel L. Jackson
 Adventure, Sci-Fi • Rated PG13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPERSAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

[www.gohollywood.com](http://WWW.GOHOLLYWOOD.COM)

Belgian author Hugo Claus dies at 78

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)—Writer Hugo Claus—an artist, poet, playwright and novelist whose books painted a scathing picture of repression and hypocrisy in bourgeois Flanders—died Wednesday by euthanasia, his wife said. He was 78.

Claus, who had Alzheimer's disease, died at Middelheim Hospital in Antwerp. "He himself picked the moment of his death and asked for euthanasia," not wanting to extend his suffering, his wife, Veerle De Wit, said in a statement.

De Wit did not say how the euthanasia, which is legal in Belgium, was carried out.

Claus produced some 200

works during his career but was best known for his classic, "The Sorrow of Belgium"—a scathing attack on social injustice, stifling family relationships and Roman Catholic repression in his native Flanders in northern Belgium.

The partly autobiographical work defined his career and shot him to prominence on the international scene.

Often writing out of anger and guilt, Claus relied on pitiless realism in his work.

"I am a person who is unhappy with things as they stand. We cannot accept the world as it is. Each day we should wake up foaming at the mouth because of the injustice of things," he

said in a magazine interview more than a decade ago.

Claus also directed several movies and, as a painter, belonged to the Cobra group, centering on spontaneous, intuitive painting.

He was married several times, including to actress Sylvia Kristel, star of the 1970s erotic movie series "Emmanuelle."

Throughout his life, Claus was a reluctant Belgian despite the increasing adulation at home as one of the prime men of letters in the Dutch language. But he said being from Belgium—the laughingstock of the French and Dutch alike—was a great advantage to his writing since he never was restrained by any sense of grandeur.

Co-workers' endless chatter drives impatient listener mad

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My problem is, I have lost the art of listening. When someone takes too long to get to the point, or includes irrelevant details, I completely lose patience. I work in a medical office with the same small group of women every day, and I like my job. However, I find myself trying to keep "extra busy" to avoid the boring, mundane chatter about things I don't care about.

Am I becoming an anti-social snob, or is there a way to participate in a conversation while resisting the temptation to roll my eyes and hurry someone along with my hands? I am not particularly chatty, and I don't divulge many details of my personal life—so is it wrong to no longer care about the details of everyone else's?

VERBALLY OVERLOADED

DEAR VERBALLY OVERLOADED: We usually get what we give in life. If you would like to receive empathy from those around you (should the need arise), then my advice is to be prepared to show some. Because you don't have time to listen to long stories, it's acceptable in an office setting to say that you are busy and have a limited amount of time to chat. In other words, if you're "verbally overloaded"—verbalize.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I had our first child, a beautiful baby girl, nine months ago. We chose a name for our daughter while I was pregnant, but my in-laws refuse to use her first name. They insist on calling her a diminutive of her middle name. Now the whole family is doing it.

At first they claimed that some distant cousin (whom we have never met) had the same name. Now they say, "We don't like her first name, so we're going to call her ()".

How can we convince them to call her by her given name?

NEW MOM IN AUSTIN

DEAR NEW MOM: Your in-laws' behavior is rude and disrespectful. Tell them that unless they're prepared for their grandchild to call them "UNCLE Charles and AUNT Martha," they should get used to calling your daughter by the name you chose for her. If they refuse, limit their time with her until she's old enough to understand who she is so they won't confuse her.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm "Troubled in North Carolina," whose letter you published on Feb. 23. Thank you for printing it. You will be happy to know that after the length of time you suggested, I did contact "Bethany." You nailed it. She did, in fact, go back to her ex-boyfriend. I'm OK with it, but what is disappointing is, she broke up with me by e-mail. I guess she didn't have the courage to face me.

After I wrote to you, I decided I wouldn't sit around and wait like a "sad puppy." I've been on a few dates and have met a lot of great women, but haven't settled yet. That's the thing: I'm not going to "settle."

There are so many times when "we men" can't open up and share how we feel. Thank you for being someone that "we" can talk to (even if it isn't really a conversation.)

NO LONGER TROUBLED IN JACKSONVILLE, N.C.

DEAR NO LONGER TROUBLED: You're welcome. I'm pleased I could be a sounding board for you. I'm also pleased you jumped right back into the dating pool. Although Bethany may have had many admirable qualities, the fact that she took the easy way out and ended the relationship by e-mail rather than facing you is a clue to her character. You deserve better, and you shouldn't settle for less.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Dear Abby

'American Idol' axes another contestant

NEW YORK (AP)—Amanda Overmyer sang "Back in the U.S.S.R."—and now, she's going back home.

The 23-year-old nurse from Mulberry, Ind., was voted off "American Idol" Wednesday, leaving 10 hopefuls to vie for the title and record contract.

Overmyer—a crowd-pleasing performer with streaked hair and a flair for southern rock—seemed to take her departure from the Fox show in stride.

"It's been a run. ... No. 11 out of all them people is more than I could expect," she told host Ryan Seacrest.

Carly Smithson and Kristy Lee Cook were the other lowest vote-getters.

Cook, a 24-year-old from Selma, Ore., has been a bottom-three fixture in the past weeks and the finalist that judge Simon Cowell picks on the most.

Cowell—who has called Cook "forgettable" and compared her voice to "Dolly Parton on helium"—continued his harsh criticism Tuesday after the country singer's take on the Beatles' "You've Got to Hide Your Love Away."

"(You're) like musical wallpaper, inasmuch as you notice it, but you can't remember it," he said. "And that's what you're doing week after week: You're making no impact."

Cook talked back to the acid-tongued judge, saying: "I can blow you out of your socks, and you know it."

Wednesday's "Idol" featured a performance by season-five finalist Kellie Pickler.

Seacrest also announced this year's roster of celebrity mentors: Parton, Mariah Carey, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Neil Diamond.

Contestant Amanda Overmyer attends the "American Idol" annual Top 12 Party in this Thursday, March 6, 2008 file photo in West Hollywood, Calif.

AP



Anderson Cooper says he has skin cancer



NEW YORK (AP)—CNN's Anderson Cooper was back at work Wednesday after minor surgery two days earlier to remove a cancerous mole from underneath his left eye.

There was no indication the skin cancer had spread, spokeswoman Shimrit Sheerit said.

He blogged about his procedure Wednesday, when he was following Barack Obama, who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, for a special edition of Cooper's nightly news show.

"I hadn't planned on mentioning this," said Cooper, 40. "But I still have stitches and you'll no doubt notice them. ... Don't want you to think I got into a fistfight with Charlie Rose."

News anchor Anderson Cooper arrives at the CNN Heroes Awards, in this Dec. 6, 2007, file photo in New York.

AP

Met Opera's 'Tristan' interrupted again

NEW YORK (AP)—The Metropolitan Opera's revival of Wagner's "Tristan und Isolde" can't make it through a performance without turmoil.

For the second straight performance, the opera was interrupted in mid-act, this time because of scenery.

The bedlike part of the raked set Gary Lehman was stretched out on slid at the start of the third act Tuesday night, and the tenor slid into the prompter's box, Met spokesman Brent Ness said.

The opera was stopped while Lehman was examined by a doctor, who cleared him to continue. The performance then resumed.

Trouble with the six-performance run began when tenor Ben Heppner came down with a virus, canceling his first four performances. John Mac Master, his cover singer, replaced him in the March 10 opener and received mostly negative reviews, and Lehman made his Met debut last Friday opposite Deborah Voigt, who sang Isolde.

Voigt felt ill with a stomach ailment during the second act of Friday's performance, which was stopped so she could be replaced by Janice Baird, her cover singer, who made her Met debut.

Robert Dean Smith will make his Met debut as Tristan for Saturday's matinee, which will be telecast in high-definition to theaters worldwide.

Heppner hopes to return for the final two nights, on March 25 and March 28.

New 007 film to open Oct. 31 in Britain

LONDON (AP)—James Bond will be back in theaters a little sooner than expected.

Sony Pictures says "Quantum of Solace," the latest 007 adventure, will be released in Britain on Oct. 31. The film had been due to open Nov. 7, which is still its scheduled release date in North America.

Daniel Craig is returning as the suave British spy, tracking down a shadowy international conspiracy whose leader is played by French actor Mathieu Almaric.

Sequences are being filmed in Panama, Chile, Austria, Italy and at Pinewood Studios near London.



AP

British actor Daniel Craig who plays James Bond, poses for photographers at a photo call for the new Bond film, "Quantum of Solace", at Pinewood Studios in Buckinghamshire, England, in this Jan. 24, 2008, file photo.

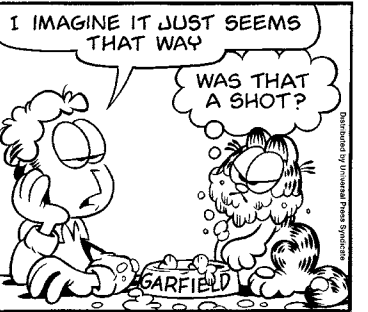
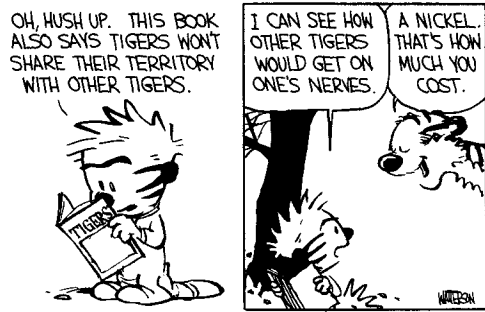
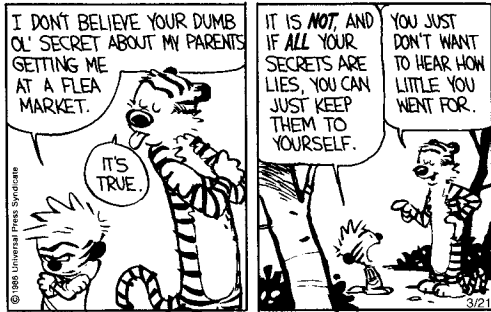
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

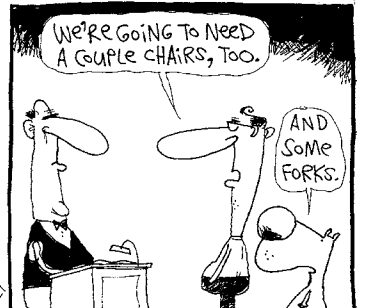
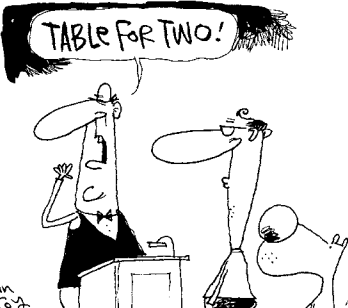
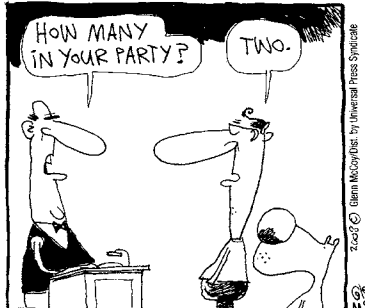
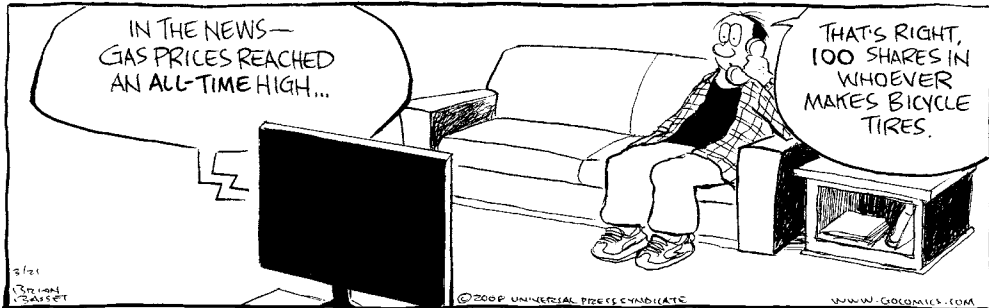


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nitwit
4 Comedian
7 Cheer up
12 Encountered
13 Candle count
14 Venomous snake
15 Gorilla
16 Jack Benny's valet
18 Perch
19 Gold rush venue
20 Obi
22 Excessively
23 Languish
27 Half of VI
29 "Addams Family" member
31 Drop abruptly
34 Flavor
35 Royal entertainer
37 Crony
38 The Red and the Black
39 Actress Larter
41 Tiny arachnid
45 Put on a show

DOWN

1 Gather together
4 Quarterback
7 Leisure suit
12 Material
13 Conclusion
14 Satirical newspaper, with "The"
15 Heavy weight
18 In olden days
19 First performance
21 Away from WSW
22 De-pressed
23 Church recitation
24 "Monty Python" opener
25 Butterfly catcher
26 Before
28 Eisenhower
30 Timetable abbr.
31 Sleepwear, briefly
32 Appomattox
33 Can. neighbor
36 "Phooey!"
37 Statue defiler
40 Starbucks order
42 Perfect
43 Valentino's dance
44 Be philanthropic
45 Faxed
46 Sea eagle
48 Spacecraft compartment
49 Indivisible
50 Women's
51 Second person

Solution time: 25 mins.

G	A	L	S	L	A	G	E	E	S
O	H	O	H	E	B	E	L	O	U
V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	A	G
A	L	I	O	R	A	T	I	O	N
D	E	T	E	C	T	E	L	I	
U	Z	I	K	I	T	S	O	F	A
B	R	O	S	P	U	G	N	I	N
S	A	N	T	A	T	A	P	X	E
O	V	A	T	I	O	N	L	O	T
D	E	L	I	T	A	X	A	T	I
E	R	G	O	E	P	I	C	O	N
S	E	A	N	S	A	V	E	N	O

Yesterday's answer 3-21

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mat-thew Broderick, 46; Rosie O'Donnell, 46; Gary Oldman, 50; Timothy Dalton, 62

Happy Birthday: Be cautious of anyone who is overly accommodating or nice this year. There will be debts to pay if you allow others to do for you. If you can't handle something on your own, don't follow that path. Be strong, steadfast and self-oriented this year if you want to get ahead. Your numbers are 1, 6, 19, 22, 28, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Ulterior motives on your part or the part of someone else may lead to a stand-off. Emotions will be high, especially regarding hearsay and those responsible for it. Do your part and avoid criticism. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't be afraid to speak up and ask for what you want. You stand a good chance of getting ahead if you are forthright about your goals and intentions. Someone from your past can help you out more than you realize. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't make rash decisions based on what someone says in anger. Stay cool and let things settle down and, in the end, you will gain legally, financially and emotionally. Keep the ones you love safe from any dispute or controversy. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put everything you've got into your partnerships, work and getting along. Don't let anyone lure you into a conversation that could lead to a disagreement. Chances are someone you live with is looking for a fight. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't fantasize about the past. If you really thought about it, you'd realize you don't want to go back in time. You have lots to look forward to if you give the people who love you a chance to show you how much. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let unfinished jobs bother you. If someone tries to dump added responsibilities on you, don't argue, just say no. Do what you can to surprise the one you love or, if single, socialize and you will meet someone worthwhile. A change in your personal life is looking positive. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Things will get blown out of proportion if you are too explicit in your conversations. A secret affair or private matter will run hot and cold, so refrain from sharing your true feelings for the time being. Don't promise something you can't deliver. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't take on someone else's problems. Fend for yourself. Put a little time and money into your surroundings and you will develop a space that is conducive to making more cash or developing new ideas. Emotional matters will slow you down if you let them. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you disappoint someone, expect to hear about it. Do whatever it takes to keep the peace. Being stubborn will hurt you in the end and lead to changes that will be hard to live with. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): View things up close. Love is looking positive if you make a few changes that will suit

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



both your needs. Do something to surprise someone important to you and your future. Check out a property investment. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't run from change. Take the initiative and make a move or a decision that will help matters along. Someone who influences your life on a daily basis may have difficulty keeping up or accepting what you are doing. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Let your emotions lead the way. Now is a good time to rid yourself of guilt as well as any deadweight you've been dragging along. You will be glad you took the initiative when everything settles down. ***

Birthday Baby: You are strong, aggressive, persuasive and serious. You are always ready to take on a challenge. You are a leader, a teacher and a reformer.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			4		6			2	
5	1		9						
8				1					
						1	4		8
			9		3		7		
2		6	4						
				5				6	
					3		9	4	
	5			4		3			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	1	6	4	3	7	2	8	5
3	5	4	8	2	1	6	9	7
2	7	8	9	6	5	3	4	1
7	3	2	5	8	9	1	6	4
8	4	5	6	1	2	7	3	9
1	6	9	3	7	4	8	5	2
4	8	7	1	5	6	9	2	3
6	9	1	2	4	3	5	7	8
5	2	3	7	9	8	4	1	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/20

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TAKING CARE OF A BUNION

Solution: 6 letters

S	H	E	N	G	I	L	A	E	R	S	N	L	B	S
E	E	F	R	E	C	O	V	E	R	Y	R	I	O	E
H	A	L	L	U	X	S	L	R	S	M	U	F	S	L
C	L	R	A	E	S	A	E	P	O	P	T	T	E	C
T	T	I	C	C	X	S	L	S	D	T	F	I	H	S
U	H	G	N	H	I	I	E	A	A	O	A	L	C	U
R	P	S	I	S	N	N	B	R	C	M	C	T	A	M
C	A	T	K	T	N	N	A	I	P	I	O	T	E	T
U	D	N	S	L	O	O	E	H	L	A	D	I	O	D
S	S	E	G	R	A	D	D	U	C	I	E	D	R	
H	B	M	M	L	I	W	T	N	S	E	T	N	M	A
I	A	A	O	S	E	S	H	O	E	S	M	Y	S	W
O	L	G	T	O	O	F	R	I	C	T	I	O	N	
N	L	I	E	T	N	E	M	T	A	E	R	T	I	
V	A	L	G	U	S	R	E	T	L	A	S	R	U	B

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 3/21
Abnormal, Aches, Alter, Angle, Arch, Ball, Biomechanical, Bursal, Crutches, Cushion, Doctor, Flat, Flexibility, Foot, Friction, Hallux, Health, Inward, Lift, Ligaments, Medical, Muscles, Pads, Pains, Pressure, Realign, Recovery, Relax, Rotate, Sesamoid, Shift, Shoes, Side, Skin, Soft, Splints, Symptom, Tendons, Tissue, Treatment, Turn, Valgus, Walk
Yesterday's Answer: Caution
SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just \$4 each (U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Press Syndicate, include \$5 postage for the first book order, \$1 each for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4501 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-5734, ext. 6688. Sorry, no online orders for this special offer.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished
1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month,
near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

WHATZIT Solution:
Alice Through the Looking Glass

FOR RENT
ONE BR. APT. NEAR MHS. in a quiet, secure area behind Calvo's Market, off Texas Rd. 24hrs. govt. & rain water. Fully air conditioned with dresser and walk in closet. All rooms have ceiling fans. Can be semi-furn. w/stove, frig & washer, dining table and chairs for \$375, water included of fully furnished and air cond. for \$425. Call Ed at 234-6842.

Computer Repair
Only **\$25** WE ALSO FIXED
Minor Problem LOPTAP & USED PARTS
233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week
9:00 AM-9:00 PM

Commercial Space & Room for Rent
■ 4000 sq.ft. commercial space, good for warehouse (previously rented to Ming Li wholesale), work-shop, office, day-care, etc. Back of Triple J Auto on Beach Road in Chalan Laukau.
■ Room from \$60-\$140 monthly. Back of Triple J Auto on Beach Road in Chalan Laukau.
Contact Ivan @ 285-9966, 235-0479
email:ivanhome_6@hotmail.com

WANTED
AVON
REPRESENTATIVE
Earn easy additional income
30% to 50% commission.
Please call Jojo Faler
at 323-4455 or 483-1971

WANTED
BOAT CREW
We are looking for Diving boat crew.
Part time job \$3.60/hour. Depend on experience.
(LOCAL or IR only)
Must know how to swim.
Honest and friendly would be appreciated.
Vega Tel.: 788-4999

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

MANICURIST WANTED
Charlie Chong Beauty Salon.
Apply in person. Middle Rd. Gualo Rai

1 BEAUTICIAN (WF 0019)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; food not provided; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Paulina A. Pascual dba Hibiscus Salon @788-9069/235-5122.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, : CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-596

Plaintiff, :

-v- :

JULIANA R. OLKERIIL and JUNIOR OLKERIIL, :

Defendants. :

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It May be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. if uou fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

WE WANT TO BUY A HOUSE AND LOT OR WAREHOUSE. ANY INTERESTED PARTIES PLEASE CALL 235-4928 OR 285-7777.

BOAT INFO
GLOBE MARINE, a local boat dealer, plans to participate in the upcoming annual Shanghai Boat Show in early April. Any company or individual is welcome to request for specific boat or accessory information for free. Please email your request to us at normanxing@hotmail.com

WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
ECIL
© 2008 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

1 MASON (WF 0020)
Salary:\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman's compensation. Contact: Hugh L. Hargrove dba Landmark Limited @235-3329.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER (WF 0021)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; duty meal only; medical & workers compensation insurance provided. Contact: Kuri Enterprises, Inc. dba Kuri-Ya Restaurant @234-5878.

1 GEN. MAINTENANCE (WF 0022)
Salary:\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Robert & Agnes Schrack @288-1317.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM : Civil Action No. 07-0177

Plaintiff, :

vs. :

JOHN T. SABLAN, GLORIA DLG. SABLAN, AND ANTONIO W. NEKAIFES.

Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in his matter on February 26,2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, an of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot No. 008 C 08, situated in Talofofo, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 9,621 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 008 C 02, Commonwealth Recorder's Office File No. 04-1103, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale.
The sale will be held on April 25, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 pm, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shah have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.

b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of die property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of die property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of March 2008.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (WF 0023)
Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; workers compensation & medical expenses provided by employers. Contact: Leticia R. Stoltenberg dba Janrome Gen. Services @484-2597.

1 HOUSEWORKER (WF 0024)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; transportation self arrange & medical expenses. Contact: Hasinta Omelau @235-6771.

1 ACCOUNTANT (WF 0025)
Salary:\$4.25-5.25/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; self arrange food; transportation employer provided; workmens compensation & medical expenses. Contact: Pacific Drilling Ltd. dba General Construction Contractor @235-8531.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE (WF 0026)
Salary:\$3.05-\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self food & workmen's compensation. Contact: The Valley Inn, Inc. dba The Valley Inn, Spring Valley Manpower Agency @234-7028.

1 ELECTRICIAN (WF 0027)
Salary:\$3.75/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self food; & workmen's compensation. Contact: The Valley Inn, Inc. dba The Valley Inn, Spring Valley Manpower Agency @234-7028.

18 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (WF 0028)
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: None/ Self provided housing; none/self provided food; worksmens compensation & medical provided. Contact: Sablan Toplevel Company, LLC @235-5206.

1 SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR (WF 0029)
Salary:\$3.55-\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Tand T Sakura Corporation @235-8308.

2 REST. COOK (WF 0030)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 DRESSMAKER (WF 0031)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 FOOD SERVICE SUP. (WF 0032)
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES**1 HOST/HOUSTESS RESTAURANT (WF 0033)**

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 SALES MANAGER (WF 0034)

Salary:\$4.05-\$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

3 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (FSUN 0060)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing not provided; self provided food; w/transportation service; workmen

compensation & medical expense. Contact: Commercial Trading of Saipan Inc. dba The Water Co., @234-6089.

4 SALES ROUTE DRIVER (FSUN 0061)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing not provided; self provided food; w/transportation service; workmen compensation & medical expense. Contact: Commercial Trading of Saipan Inc. dba The Water Co., @234-6089.

1 SALES PERSON (FSUN 0062)

Salary:\$650.00-\$750.00/monthly. Benefits: ER provided housing; self provided food; w/transportation service; workmen compensation & medical expense. Contact: Commercial Trading of Saipan Inc. dba The Water Co., @234-6089.

1 MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR (FSUN 0063)

Salary:\$600.00-\$850.00/monthly. Benefits: ER provided housing; self provided food; w/transportation service; workmen compensation & medical expense. Contact: Com-

mercial Trading of Saipan Inc. dba The Water Co., @234-6089.

1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (FSUN 0064)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen compensation provided. Contact: Blue Horizon Ent., Inc. dba Blue Horizon @233-7871.

1 SPORTS INSTRUCTOR (FSUN 0065)

Salary:\$4.40/hour. Benefits: Liability insurance & workers compensation provided. Contact: Blue Horizon Ent., Inc. dba Blue Horizon @233-7871.

1 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN (FSUN 0066)

Salary:\$3.65/hour. Benefits: Free housing; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: A&L Corporation dba Tropicana Gameroom @233-1203.

1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (WF 0035)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical

& workers compensation provided by company. Contact: Treasures Inc. @233-3701/03.

1 AUTO MECHANIC (WF 0036)

Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Workmen compensation by employer; transportation is self arranged; food is self provided; housing is self arranged; medical at 80% by employer and 20% by employee. Contact: Man's Service, LLC dba Man's Service @322-6267.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (WF 0037)

Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Saipan Auto Clinic Company @234-0994.

1 SHOP SUPERVISOR (WF 0038)

Salary:\$3.55-\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Marianas Repairs Co., Inc. @234-9083.

1 WELDER (WF 0039)

Salary:\$3.55-\$4.65/hour. Benefits: Self arranges housing; self provided food; medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Marianas Repairs Co., Inc. @234-9083.

1 FARM WORKER (FSUN 0067)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; & medical. Contact: Dr. Vicente S. Aldan @235-8864.

1 OFFSET PRESS OPERATOR (FSUN 0068)

Salary:\$4.00-\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workmen's

compensation. Contact: Tropical Instant Press, Inc. @234-6267.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (FSUN 0069)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical under workers compensation. Contact: D&C Corporation @287-3622.

1 GARDENER (FSUN 0070)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical under workers compensation. Contact: D&C Corporation @288-2592.

Notice of Public Hearing LaoLao Golfel Hotel and Housing

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on a Conditional Use Permit Application, No. 2008-0302, by the Saipan LauLau Development, Inc. The application is for construction of tower and villa buildings and staff housing at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort, Saipan.

Date: March 26, 2008
Time: 6:30 pm
Place: ChaCha Ocean View Middle School Cafeteria

The conditional use application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to issue or deny the permit.

Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted to the Zoning Office but they must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:30 pm, March 26, 2008. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Notice of Public Hearing U.C. Corp Beach Concession

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on a Conditional Use Permit Application, No. 2008-0310, by U.C. Corp. The application is for construction of a beach concession stand for rental of non-motorized watercraft on the beach near Lot 006 H 35, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

Date: March 26, 2008
Time: 6:30 pm
Place: ChaCha Ocean View Middle School Cafeteria

The conditional use application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to issue or deny the permit.

Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted to the Zoning Office but they must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:30 pm, March 26, 2008. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

The Saipan Tribune now offers Classified Ads Super Saver Package

for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more...

3-LINER AD

\$25

3-LINER AD
W/ PHOTO

\$45

5-LINER AD

\$35

5-LINER AD
W/ PHOTO

\$55

Get results. Advertise now!

**Call now at 235-2769
for more details.**

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Make it a **daily** habit!
www.saipantribune.com



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW08-RFP-016

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DESIGN OF PRECINCT IV SECONDARY ROADS & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals for the Preliminary Engineering Design of Precinct IV Secondary Roads & Drainage Improvement on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The procurement of this RFP is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 4-102 of the Procurement Regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Florence C. Sablan, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after March 07, 2008 at the DPW, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A Non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center Office. Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled on March 28, 2008. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time April 04, 2008.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor or another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

Technical Requirements:

1. Professional Qualifications necessary for satisfactory performance of services- 25%
2. Project approach - 25%
3. Capacity to accomplished the work in the required time- 25%
4. Past performance on contract with Government on similar project- 25%

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW08-PFP-016". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 11, 2008. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 11, 2008 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 11, 2008 and must be received no later than April 22, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made wherefrom, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals may be solicited upon public announcement, however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firms. Such fee proposals may be used in determining a fair and reasonable contract price.

These projects are funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA) with local matching funds provided by the CNMI Government. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the Department of Interior (DOI/OIA).

The successful proposer will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project. Including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ JOSE S. DEMAPAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply



Team Up With Us

Bank of Hawaii has rewarding career opportunities for talented, energetic and self-motivated individuals.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Teller (Chalan Kanoa Branch)

Quick learning individual needed to handle various banking transactions while providing exceptional customer service. Prior cash handling and customer service and/or sales experience required, great attitude and flexibility a must.

BENEFITS

Advancement Opportunities
Medical/Dental/Vision
World Class Retirement Savings Plan
Life/Dependent Life Insurance
Paid Vacation and Holidays
Free & Discounted Banking Privileges
Tuition Reimbursement
Flexible Spending Accounts
*Not all benefits available at all locations

"We foster a drug-free work environment. We are proud to be an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer."

APPLY ONLINE **boh.com/careers**
For more information 670.236.8452



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCLPB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, March 26, 2008 at 3:00pm on Saipan**. The meeting will be held at the conference room at HCLPB's office located in Bldg. #1336 Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

A G E N D A

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (2/26/08)
- V. Chairman's Report
- VI. Director's Report
- VII. Old Business
 - A. H.B. 16-25
 - B. Proposed Amendments to the HCLPB Regulations for Final Adoption
 - C. Review of Draft Regulations for Physicians and Physician Assistants.
- VIII. New Business
 - A. Island Medical Center
 - B. Bali Fashions
 - C. Draft of Application Form for Physicians/Physician Assistants
- IX. Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New/Renewal Applications
 - B. Pending Applications
- X. Miscellaneous Business
- XI. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XII. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Dr. Norma S. Ada
Chairwoman

Subscribe to
CNMI's First
Daily Newspaper

235-NEWS



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Request for Proposal RFP 08-013

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for services to be rendered under the MHS Safe Haven Program. **The Marianas High School Safe Haven Program is a unique program with the goal of providing a safe, clean environment for after school hours, weekends, and summer vacations for organized and open sports and fitness activities.**

Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 08-013" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than March 28, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 08-013, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1) original and one (1) copy). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via the following e-mail address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ **Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.**
Commissioner of Education

/S/ **Carl F. de la Cruz, M.B.A.**
Acting P & S Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Invitation For Bid IFB 08-026

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, and installation of **Computers, Accessories, Cameras, LCD Projectors, and LCD Screens for Dandan Elementary School and San Vicente Elementary School**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-026" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **April 9, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-026, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp**.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/s/ **Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.**
Commissioner of Education

/s/ **Carl F. de la Cruz**
Acting P&S Officer

Wells scores 25 to help Hornets beat Rockets



NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Former Houston swingman Bonzi Wells helped New Orleans hand the Rockets their second straight loss after a 22-game winning streak, scoring 20 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter in the Hornets' 90-69 victory Wednesday night.

David West, returning from a right ankle sprain that sidelined him for two games, had 23 points and 11 rebounds to help New Orleans (46-21) pull a half-game ahead of the Rockets for the Southwest Division lead and even with the Los Angeles Lakers atop the Western Conference.

Tracy McGrady scored 15 against New Orleans, well below his nearly 22-point-per-game average.

Chris Paul had 21 points and 10 assists for the Hornets, who extended their home winning streak to eight while ending the Rockets 12-game winning streak on the road.

Luis Scola had 14 points and nine rebounds before fouling out with three minutes left. Shane Battier also scored 14, while Dikembe Mutombo and Rafer Alston each scored 10.

Tyson Chandler grabbed 15 rebounds for New Orleans, which overcame a 14-point first-half deficit.

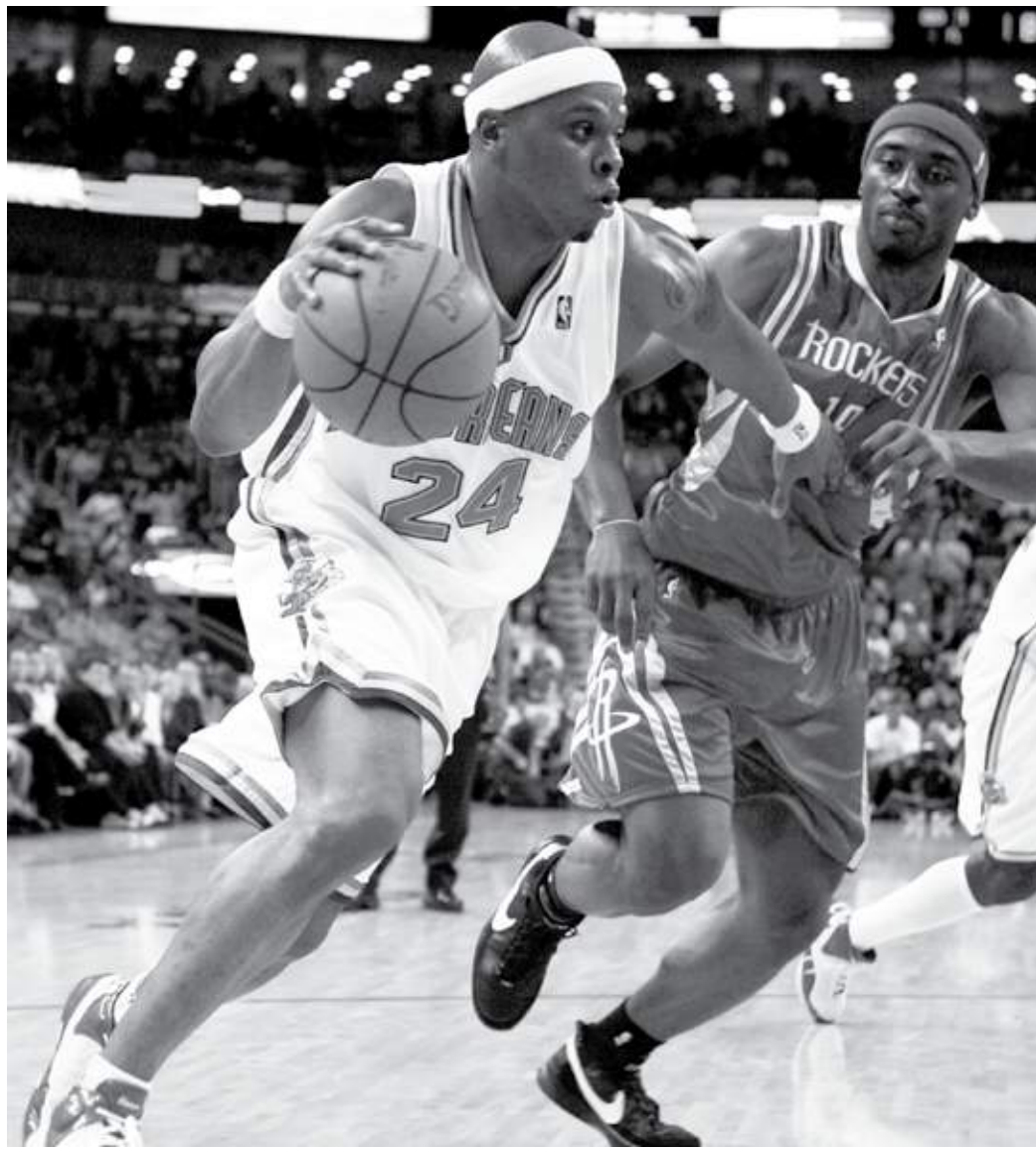
Suns 110, SuperSonics 98

At Seattle, Steve Nash scored 23 points, Amare Stoudemire dominated inside with 26 points and Phoenix overcame a season-high 27 turnovers to win its season-best sixth straight.

Jeff Green led Seattle with 19 points, and Kevin Durant and Luke Ridnour both scored 16.

Cavaliers 89, Pistons 73

At Cleveland, LeBron James scored 30 points, moving closer



New Orleans Hornets forward Bonzi Wells (24) drives towards the goal past Houston Rockets forward Mike Harris (19) during the second half of their NBA basketball game in New Orleans on Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

to becoming Cleveland's top career scorer, and the Cavaliers beat Detroit in the Pistons' first visit to Cleveland since losing Game 6 of last year's Eastern Conference finals.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 20 points and Wally Szczerbiak 10 for the Cavaliers, the defending Eastern Conference champions.

Rasheed Wallace scored 16 points and Richard Hamilton 14 for the Pistons, who were held to 63 fewer points than they scored in a 136-120 win over

Denver on Tuesday.

Warriors 116, Clippers 100

At Los Angeles, Stephen Jackson scored 29 points, Monta Ellis added 28 and Golden State tightened its grip on a playoff spot.

Golden State's ninth victory in 12 games, coupled with Denver's two-point loss at Philadelphia, increased the Warriors' lead over the Nuggets to 2 1/2 games in the race for the eighth and final Western Conference

playoff berth.

Rookie Al Thornton had 24 points and 13 rebounds for the Clippers, who have lost five straight and 13 of 15.

Raptors 96, Heat 54

At Toronto, Andrea Bargnani and Anthony Parker each scored 14 points and Toronto held Miami to the third-lowest point total in the shot-clock era.

Jose Calderon had 10 points and 10 assists, and Rasho Nesterovic scored 12 points to help the

Raptors snap a season-high five-game losing streak. The 42-point margin of victory was the largest in franchise history, beating Toronto's previous mark of 39.

Toronto's Chris Bosh had eight points and eight rebounds in his return after missing 10 games with a sore right knee. The Raptors were 2-8 without Bosh, including 0-5 on a just-concluded West Coast trip.

76ers 115, Nuggets 113

At Philadelphia, Andre Miller scored 28 points and Philadelphia spoiled Allen Iverson's return to Philadelphia.

Iverson, playing in Philly for the first time since being traded to Denver in December 2006, led all scorers with 32 points and added eight assists.

Samuel Dalembert scored the decisive basket with 32.9 seconds remaining for Philadelphia. He had 17 points, 12 rebounds and five blocked shots.

Carmelo Anthony scored 26 points for the Nuggets, who are scrambling for a playoff spot in the tough Western Conference.

Nets 125, Hawks 117

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Vince Carter had a season-high 39 points and 10 assists and New Jersey moved into a tie with Atlanta for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Richard Jefferson added 33 points and Devin Harris had a career-high 26 points and nine assists despite playing on a sprained ankle as the Nets had a season-high point total.

Joe Johnson had 24 points to lead six Hawks in double figures.

Wizards 87, Magic 86

At Orlando, Florida, Antawn Jamison had 31 points and 11 rebounds and Washington shut down Dwight Howard offensively in a win over Orlando.

Hedo Turkoglu had a career high with 39 points for the Magic, but Howard had only three points and 14 rebounds. He sat much of the game in foul trouble, turned the ball over four times and shot 1-for-6.

DeShawn Stevenson, who played 2 1/2 seasons for Orlando, scored 14, while Caron Butler had 11 points and nine rebounds and Brendan Haywood had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Pacers 102, Bobcats 95

At Indianapolis, Flip Murray scored 22 points, and Indiana won its second straight game while handing Charlotte its fifth consecutive loss.

Troy Murphy had 18 points and 13 rebounds and Shawne Williams, who had been benched for five straight games, scored 14 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter for Indiana.

Jason Richardson had 20 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, and Matt Carroll added 18 points for the Bobcats.

Indiana forward Danny Granger missed the game with a sprained right wrist. Granger, the team's leading scorer, had started all but one game this season.

Timberwolves 98, Grizzlies 94

At Minneapolis, Al Jefferson scored 22 of his 29 points in the second half to help Minnesota erase a 14-point deficit and beat Memphis.

After hitting just one of his first 11 shots, Minnesota's Ryan Gomes made two free throws and then jumper from the elbow with 52.8 seconds left to help seal it and hand the Grizzlies their 18th straight road loss.

Mike Miller had 20 points and 10 rebounds and Rudy Gay scored 25 for the Grizzlies (16-51), who moved into a tie with Seattle for the second-worst record in the NBA.

Iverson opens up in Philly return

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Allen Iverson planted a kiss on the 76ers logo at midcourt and blew imaginary ones to the fans.

With a packed Philadelphia crowd standing and roaring in appreciation for their former MVP, Iverson had to wonder if his career would be different had he simply kissed and made up with the Sixers last season.

"I had a big hand in me getting traded," a reflective Iverson said Wednesday night. "I always wanted to finish my career here in Philadelphia. The opportunity was there for me to do it. In a lot of ways, I made sure that didn't happen."

All of Iverson's arguments with former coach Larry Brown, the complaints about practice—practice!—and his falling out with coach Maurice Cheeks that led to his trade to Denver were forgotten the moment he walked into the Wachovia Center for the first time as a visitor.

Iverson hugged security guards, embraced Cheeks, kissed the team logo and joked about not knowing where to go inside the Wachovia Center. He took a different route to the arena than he did in his years with the Sixers, dressed in a

new locker room and sat on the visitor's bench.

"That is a locker room that I never wanted to end up in," Iverson said.

Not everything was strange in Iverson's first game in Philadelphia since he was traded to the Nuggets in December 2006, like the earsplitting ovation that greeted him when his name was called first in the pregame introduction.

All anyone in the packed arena could hear was "Ladies and gentlemen, let's welcome back, from Georgetown University ..." before the rest was completely drowned out by the wild cheers.

Iverson waved and saluted the crowd, then blew some kisses. He cupped his hand to his left ear and the ovation only became louder and longer. He pointed to all four corners of the arena and clapped his hands in approval. Only the rest of the lineup cut short the appreciation.

Iverson seemed touched to receive the reaction he wanted to hear.

"I want to feel appreciated," Iverson said before the game. "I don't think there's nobody that plays this sport that don't care about what the fans think of them and think of what they gave on the basketball court. I hope it goes the way I dreamed it up."

Iverson was cheered after all his baskets and had 12 points on 6-for-10 shooting at halftime.

Iverson was open and honest, almost cathar-

tic, about his time with the Sixers and accepted some of the responsibility for the bitter split with the Sixers. In a wide-ranging press conference, Iverson touched on fatherhood, his maturation in Denver, his indiscretions, and how he also "did a lot of things right" being a Sixer.

"I don't make mistakes and do some of the things I was accustomed to doing anymore," he said. "I don't want to be the person that I used to be. I don't regret any of it because I felt going through what I went through here, my ups and downs, helped be the man I am today."

Iverson had "THXPHILA" imprinted on his sneakers and the fans responded with their own tributes. Iverson's No. 3 jerseys dotted the crowd and a few fans held signs of appreciation. One read "We Miss You A.I." and another said "The Answer Deserves Brotherly Love."

"I don't think this a day for anything negative," Iverson said. "I feel like I want to make this day a positive point in my life. I want to make it a day I'll always cherish and remember for the positive things about it, not anything negative."

Iverson posted the highest scoring average in team history (28.1), is second on the points list (19,583) and holds the record for 3-pointers (877). He was a seven-time All-Star, won four scoring titles, two All-Star game MVPs and the league MVP award in 2001 after taking the Six-

ers to the NBA finals.

"I don't have nothing against this organization," Iverson said. "Obviously, they made me a household name, known all over the world because of this organization. They enabled me to take care of my family for the rest of my life and theirs."

Iverson entered the Wachovia Center for the first time as a Nugget with a crush of media worthy of a playoff game waiting his arrival. There was a similar horde in the press room where Iverson, with a Denver yellow headband wrapped around the cornrows, spoke for nearly 20 minutes.

Iverson hugged arena employees, stopped to joke with Sixers center Samuel Dalembert, but did not cross paths with Cheeks. Iverson and Cheeks had a splintered relationship—it was Cheeks who banished A.I. from the team—that was one of the catalysts for the former MVP getting traded.

The two had not spoken since the trade, but Iverson went over and shook hands with Cheeks shortly before tip.

"It's time to move on, the Sixers and myself," Iverson said. "It's time for both of us to move ahead and look for more positive things."

Iverson joked with his Denver teammates in the locker room before the game, then had to take care of some business.

"Where the bathrooms at?" he said, laughing. "I ain't too familiar with this area."

Harris out as Bucks GM



MILWAUKEE (AP)—With Larry Harris out as general manager of the Milwaukee Bucks, Sen. Herb Kohl now has to prove to the next candidate that he's not a meddling owner.

"I'm not Mark Cuban," Kohl quipped of the Dallas Mavericks' billionaire owner who routinely makes headlines. "I honestly believe that I'm not a meddling type of a manager, whether it be in basketball or whether it was in food stores or department stores or as a senator."

Still, it's a stigma Kohl carries, and Harris asked in advance if his contract would be renewed at the end of June. After discussions with his advisers during the weekend, Kohl decided to let Harris leave immediately.

"My heart and my head were in a different place," Kohl said Wednesday. "My heart certainly wanted to maintain our relationship. ... (But) the needs were such that I believe that we needed to have an outside person with a fresh approach to take a look at our basketball organization to see how we can get better and get back to the playoffs."

Calls to Harris' cell phone went straight to voice mail, with his standard message concluding, "As always, have a wonderful day."

Player personnel director Dave Babcock will handle the day-to-day operations and the bulk of the team's draft preparation while Kohl searches for a replacement. But Kohl dismissed Babcock as a candidate.

"I think we need an outside person who will take a fresh look," Kohl said. "That's my inclination right now."

Potential candidates include TV analyst and former coach Doug Collins, former Sonics GM Rick Sund and Pacers CEO Donnie Walsh, who did not take questions from reporters in Indiana on Wednesday.

Collins declined to comment on his interest in the job, but the Bucks pursued him heavily for the head coaching position before hiring Terry Stotts in 2005.



Milwaukee Bucks general manager Larry Harris announces the trade of guard T.J. Ford to the Toronto Raptors for forward Charlie Villanueva during a news conference in this June 30, 2006, file photo in St. Francis, Wis.

"Doug Collins is a man of great knowledge and wisdom in this business," Kohl acknowledged before saying it served no real purpose to speculate on candidates. "I'd rather not say anything about anybody except that it's wide open for the best person we can find at the earliest possible date we can find that person."

The move also leaves coach Larry Krystkowiak's future in doubt. Krystkowiak, hired last March, has gone 28-58 in just over a season and Kohl said that his future would be a discussion for after the season.

Kohl was loudly booed in a 112-106 loss to the Miami Heat on Tuesday night, the

18th time Milwaukee lost the lead in the fourth quarter while dropping to 23-44.

They'll likely receive another high lottery pick for the third time in four years after selecting Andrew Bogut with the No. 1 pick in 2005 and Yi Jianlian sixth overall last year.

Harris tried to improve the team midseason by trying to trade for the Knicks' Zach Randolph, but Kohl turned it down after studying Randolph's off-the-court issues. Still, he denied allegations that he kept Harris from doing his job.

"He's had the freedom to do what he's wanted or needed to do. It doesn't mean that any general manager anywhere has

total freedom to do anything they want to do," Kohl said. "There has been a minimum of second-guessing, if any."

Harris never made the impact he'd hoped for after being hired as general manager in July 2003. He'd been with the franchise full-time since 1990 when he was the scout-video coordinator under his father, then-coach Del Harris.

But the younger Harris' teams faltered as he went through a stream of coaches from Terry Porter to Stotts before settling on Krystkowiak in March 2007.

Harris' teams made the playoffs in 2004 and 2006, but failed to win more than one game in each first-round series.

NBA BRIEFS

Reports: Knicks owner talked with Walsh

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Knicks may have started the process of finding a replacement for Isiah Thomas, according to published reports. *The New York Times* reported Wednesday that Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan has had informal talks with Indiana Pacers CEO Donnie Walsh. The report cited a person with ties to Walsh, who said the sides will likely meet next week. *The Daily News* first reported the talks Monday. Both reports said no offer had been made, adding there was no indication Walsh was Dolan's top candidate if he removes Thomas as president. The Knicks are 19-48 and will finish with one of the worst records in franchise history. They have made the postseason only once since Thomas was hired as team president in December 2003, getting swept by New Jersey in 2004. If Thomas is removed as president, it's unknown if he would remain as coach. He is 52-97 since replacing Larry Brown in the summer of 2006. Dolan has not spoken to the media since last March, and the Knicks haven't said when he will. Walsh has said he won't talk about his future until after the season.

Lakers expect Bynum back for playoffs

DALLAS (AP)—The Lakers have finally put a timetable on the return of Andrew Bynum: probably the first round of the playoffs. Bynum has been out since Jan. 13, when he dislocated his left kneecap and bruised a bone landing on a teammate's foot while going for a rebound. The Lakers haven't been more specific about his recovery than saying he would be out for at least eight weeks. But before the Lakers played the Mavericks on Tuesday night, coach Phil Jackson said he's not expecting the 20-year-old center to return until the playoffs begin the weekend of April 18-19. "It's all about swelling, the pounding you take day to day," Jackson said. "He continually battles that. So it could be a couple, three weeks before he's doing some things on the court." Going into the Mavs game, Los Angeles was 20-10 without Bynum, helped by the addition of Pau Gasol. The Lakers would probably rather not wait until the postseason to get them playing together, but it looks like they might not have a choice. In his third year, Bynum is averaging 13.1 points, 10.2 rebounds and 2.06 blocked shots. He was leading the NBA in field goal percentage (63.6 percent) and was among the best in rebounds and blocks when he got hurt.

His tenure also was marked by injuries and poor contracts for a core of now unmovable players, mostly when he committed more than \$200 million to player salaries in 2005.

Harris re-signed Michael Redd to a six-year deal worth \$90 million, but also chose to keep Dan Gadzuric for six years and \$36 million, while signing Bobby Simmons from the Clippers to a five-year, \$47 million deal after Simmons won the NBA's Most Improved Player award.

Simmons wasn't able to stay healthy and has largely been a role player, while Gadzuric has made just 10 starts since signing the contract and averaged less than 13 minutes a game.

Harris has had some success in the draft, but his trades were

mostly busts.

Without a first-round pick in 2006, he sent frenetic point guard T.J. Ford to Toronto for power forward Charlie Villanueva, who hasn't been able to stay healthy, either.

That deal came after Harris sent his 2006 first-round pick and Desmond Mason for Jamaal Magloire, a trade that also failed because Magloire never seemed to fit the Bucks' uptempo style.

Milwaukee has struggled to find an identity behind a mishmash of offensive threats and a lack of defense in the physical Eastern Conference.

"What we've not shown is the passion too often this year," Kohl said. "We have good guys and they're talented guys. We have not gotten the job done. That's No. 1."

Study: Top NCAA seeds lag academically



North Carolina was the only school among the four No. 1 seeds in the NCAA men's tournament to graduate at least 50 percent of its players. A report released Monday found 86 percent of Tar Heels men's players earned diplomas during a six-year period. The other top seeds were far worse: 45 percent at Kansas and 40 percent at UCLA and Memphis.

The study was conducted by Richard Lapchick, head of the University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport. It evaluated four different freshman classes for a period beginning in 1997-98 and ending with 2000-01. Though the players evaluated are no

longer on campus, the report intends to provide a snapshot of academic trends.

Lapchick's primary concern was the disparity between black and white players. Thirty-three schools graduated at least 70 percent of their white men's basketball players; only 19 graduated that many black players. At least 50 percent of white players earned degrees at 45 schools, but black athletes had that much success at only 36 schools.

But the study found that the achievement gap was shrinking. At 34 percent of tournament-bound teams there was a 30-point or greater difference in graduation success between black and white players, down from 49 percent last year. Black players continued to succeed in higher rates than black nonathletes.

"Higher education's greatest failure is the persistent gap between African-American and white basketball student-athletes in particular, and students in general," Lapchick wrote. "The good news there is that the gaps are narrowing slightly."

According to NCAA data, graduation rates for black men's basketball players have improved 14 percent overall since 1984.

"We've seen some real improvement over time," NCAA spokesman Erik Christianson said. "There's always room for more improvement, but we're pleased with the progress."

The NCAA tournament field is 65 teams, but not all could be included in the analysis. Cornell, like other Ivy League schools, doesn't report graduation rates. Gonzaga had no black players

and 10 schools had no white athletes.

Two of the No. 2 seeds, Tennessee and Texas, graduated only 33 percent of their players for the period studied. The other second seeds, Georgetown and Duke, had success rates of 82 percent and 67 percent, respectively.

Academically, this year the Final Four would include five teams: Western Kentucky (100 percent graduation success), Butler (92 percent), Notre Dame (91 percent), Purdue (91 percent), and Davidson (91 percent). Xavier, a No. 3 seed, was close behind with a 90 percent success rate.

UCLA said the report failed to show its recent academic success, and a better indicator was the NCAA's new Academic Progress Rate. Lapchick has been waiting to use that data, collected since 2004 under the NCAA's academic reforms, until four years are available. The fourth year won't be released until April. (AP)

Chamberlain heading to Yankees' bullpen

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Joba Chamberlain will begin the season in the New York Yankees' bullpen.

"We think that's where he fits best right now," manager Joe Girardi said Wednesday.

For much of spring training, Chamberlain was a contender for a spot in the starting rotation. He was a starter in college and the minors before New York switched him to a relief role last year and called him up in August to boost its shaky bullpen.

When asked if Chamberlain would go back to the setup role he thrived in as a rookie last season, Girardi refused to be specific. But he did say Chamberlain would pitch late in games.

"He's a back-end guy. That's how I'm going to classify him," Girardi said.

The 22-year-old right-hander had prepared as a starter this spring, but wasn't surprised by the decision.

"I had an idea if everybody stayed healthy this would happen," he said. "It's best for the team right now. It's about winning games. It's not about Joba Chamberlain."

The Yankees' projected rotation includes Chien-Ming Wang, Andy Pettitte, Mike Mussina, Phil Hughes and Ian Kennedy.

The team said it still expects Chamberlain to be a starter down the road, but Girardi wouldn't commit to saying it would happen this season.

"We have not got that far," Girardi said. "I'm going to put it this way, we consider him a starter in the future. I don't want to be locked into a timetable. You know that's my personality."

Chamberlain started Saturday against Detroit in a split-squad game and allowed three runs and four hits in three innings. He has a 6.14 ERA in 7 1-3 innings this spring.

Chamberlain is scheduled to pitch out of the bullpen Thursday and Saturday. He is expected to work on consecutive days next week.

"I really wasn't wondering at all," Chamberlain said. "It's great not only to know, but just to get your routine going. The routine is going to be the hardest part. Sitting there (in the bullpen) and when the inning comes up, get ready."

Chamberlain went 2-0 with a 0.38 ERA and one save in 19 games last season. He struck out 34 and walked six in 24 innings.

Japan trip on for Red Sox, Athletics



FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—Fans

at City of Palms Park were ready for Boston's final spring training game in Florida. The Red Sox weren't.

In an extraordinary move, Boston players voted to boycott a nationally televised exhibition and Wednesday afternoon's flight to Japan for next week's season-opening series against Oakland, upset that coaches weren't going to receive the same \$40,000 payments negotiated for players by their union.

A couple of hours later, all was resolved, and the Red Sox took the field one hour late for a 4-3 loss to Toronto before a crowd of 7,868.

Across the country in Phoenix, Athletics players also considered a boycott. They didn't take batting practice and held five team meetings before following Boston's lead and deciding to play. An Oakland split squad lost 6-1 to the Los Angeles Angels in front of 7,940 fans before leaving for Tokyo.

"The players just stepped up and they did what I think was right," Boston bench coach Brad Mills said.

Major League Baseball agreed to pay the managers, coaches and trainers on the trip \$20,000 each from management's proceeds, a person familiar with the agreement said, speaking on

condition of anonymity because details weren't announced. The Red Sox agreed to make up the difference to make the amount equal, and to pay some of the other team personnel making the trip, the person said.

"It was a misunderstanding of what agreement was reached between MLB and the MLBPA," Red Sox president Larry Lucchino said. "We said we would step up and make sure a second pool was created and would seek contributions from all parties."

It was unclear whether Oakland would make additional payments to its staff.

"We are going to handle the situation internally at this point," A's president Michael Crowley said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "We will ensure that our coaches are treated fairly."

Cancellation of the March 25-26 series at the Tokyo Dome would have been a publicity nightmare for Major League Baseball, which already has had enough bad news during an offseason dominated by performance-enhancing drugs.

"Everyone connected with the trip will be fairly compensated," baseball spokesman Rich Levin said.

Managers and coaches were included in the players' pool payments for baseball's two previous season-opening trips to Japan, when the New York Mets played the Chicago Cubs

in 2000 and the Yankees played Tampa Bay in 2004. But this time, the agreement between MLB and the players' association called only for payments to 30 players on each club, and left out the coaches.

"They're just as much a part of this team as anybody," said Oakland closer Huston Street, the team's player representative. "Playoff shares, coaches get an equal share. You look at previous Japan trips, coaches have gotten an equal share."

The initial vote by Boston players set off a series of calls among players from the Red Sox and Athletics, Major League Baseball, the clubs and the players' association.

"We felt we had to make a stand, and being on ESPN didn't hurt," Red Sox third baseman Mike Lowell said.

At Phoenix Municipal Stadium, where their game was scheduled to start three hours after Boston's, A's players watched coverage of the Red Sox dispute. Oakland players spoke by telephone with their Boston counterparts about boycotting the trip.

"There was a discussion about whether to play the game today. There was a discussion about how the money could potentially be handled. There was a discussion about going to Japan. There was a discussion about how to talk to the media about it," Street said.

Street said Oakland's players would be willing to lower what they receive in order to provide for coaches. He said while "everybody is going to be compensated fairly," he wasn't certain that "fairly" would mean "equally."

Lowell said \$20,000 payments for the coaches would not have been acceptable given that the players were making \$40,000.

"We didn't think that was correct," he said. "Giving them half of that is not equal."

Daisuke Matsuzaka, who had been scheduled to pitch for Boston, left the stadium to pitch in a game against Minnesota's Triple-A affiliate while David Aardsma started in his place. Matsuzaka is scheduled to be the opening-day starter in Tokyo next week against Oakland.

Boston manager Terry Francona spoke twice Wednesday with commissioner Bud Selig about the exhibition against the Blue Jays.

"Mr. Selig was justifiably concerned about playing the game, which I completely understand," Francona said.

Boston's Kevin Youkilis stressed the players felt strongly about not going to Japan without a resolution.

"The club's working on stuff and trying to get money where it needs to get," he said. "It was definitely an experience of a lifetime, and it ended in a good way."

Make it "Home" for the Holidays

Fast & Easy Approvals!



Friendly Staff!

Starting at
\$20⁹⁵
week

Starting at
\$25⁹⁵
week

**Sofas, Dining Sets
Bedroom sets and more!**



No Credit Checks!

No Repair Bills!

No Long Term Obligations!

234-RENT
SAIPAN

Middle Road, Gualo Rai next to Subway.





A team from Saipan Southern High School makes a turn in a race held last March 8 at the waters off Kilili Beach Park.
JON PEREZ

Ayuyus, Dolphins aim to boost lead in HS canoe race

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The high schools of Kagman and Marianas aim to increase their respective leads when the weekly High School Outrigger Canoe races returns tomorrow at Kilili Beach Park.

The high school canoe season started last month and Saturday's races will begin at 9am.

The Kagman Ayuyus and the Lady Dolphins of MHS currently lead the four-team field, each garnering 32 and 38 points after the 500m and 1,500m short distance and long distance events.

Kagman holds a 10-point lead over

closest pursuer MHS' 22 markers, while the Saipan Southern Manta Rays and the Mt. Carmel School Knights collected 19 and 15 points.

SSHS improved its standings after earning 10 points for winning last week's long distance race with a time of 43 minutes and 20 seconds. Mt Carmel was 26 seconds behind (43:56) for an additional six points.

Kagman (44:48) and MHS (45:15) placed third and fourth to collect four and two points apiece.

In the girls division, MHS now has a 12-point lead after topping last week's long distance race with a time of 51:52, while Mt. Carmel, which is also second

in the overall points race with 26, came in second (52:10).

KHS earned four points for placing third (53:07), while SSHS had two after finishing fourth (53:11).

MHS now has a total of 38 points followed by MCS' 26, while KHS has 12 and SSHS nine.

Organizers are looking for individuals who will help them hold the race. They will need volunteers to assist the participants, prepare the canoes and other equipment, race marshals, and timekeepers.

They are also looking for people who have stop or digital watches to monitor the times of each school.

Magnolia acquires 'Cool Cat' Cortez



MANILA, Philippines — Looks like

Olsen Racela will have a new heir at Magnolia.

Former Rookie of the Year Mike Cortez and potential star Ken Bono were dealt by Alaska for Beverage Masters L.A. Tenorio and Larry Fonacier in a blockbuster trade that was consummated late Wednesday night.

The deal came as a surprise in two ways—the Aces letting go of Cortez, their cornerstone before Willie Miller arrived, and the Beverage Masters parting ways with Tenorio, who was seen as heir apparent to Racela in the backcourt of the PBA's winningest team.

"We needed a pure point guard and San Miguel (Magnolia) happened to

initiate a trade," Alaska team manager Joaqui Trillo told the Philippine Daily Inquirer over the phone.

Trillo didn't say why the Aces decided to let go of Cortez, the 6-foot former De La Salle University ace in the UAAP who played his first full tournament in the last Philippine Cup after recovering from an ACL tear.

But the Aces did receive Tenorio, a pure point guard who could make life easier for Miller, the reigning MVP, who could concentrate on offense more.

Fonacier, a star waiting to blossom, could be the outside sniper that the Aces are looking for. The shooting guard spot proved critical for Alaska in the last Philippine Cup where they lost in the semifinals to eventual champion Sta. Lucia Realty, 4-3.

Cortez thus joins a team already team-

ing with talent on all fronts, taking his 12.7-point, 4.6-assist and 4.2-rebound averages to a team that struggled to play all of its stars in the last tournament.

But the good news for Cortez is that he will have the backcourt almost to himself with Racela, the workhorse who has quarterbacked the San Miguel franchise to so many glorious moments in the past, entering the twilight of his career.

Tenorio played an average of 25.5 minutes for Magnolia in the last tournament, posting respectable averages of 7.8 points, 4.6 assists and 3.6 rebounds in nine starts.

Bono, meanwhile, was described by Trillo as a superstar in the making. But the Aces let go of the 6-foot-5 former UAAP MVP from Adamson University with their need for a certified gunslinger becoming apparent. (PDI)

FRUSTRATING

From Page 44

Vance suffered the injury while training in the Tagaman course three days after finishing second to Noble in the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship. "I had to stop and walk back to [the house where I am staying at]. The calf and hamstring were both affected pretty bad."

Vance, in his blog, said four-time XTERRA Saipan champion Renata Bucher's friend and trainer Allan Collinson, who is a physical therapist in

Australia, helped him in treating his calf and hamstring muscles.

Despite the frustrating finish in Tagaman, Vance, in his blog, thanked the people of Saipan for their hospitality and he would encourage some of his friends to join the Pacific Islands Club Double.

Vance was raised in Michigan and Indianapolis and began running in high school. He was an All-State cross country and track athlete, before walking-on at the University of Nebraska.

There he earned a full-athletic scholarship, two academic scholarships and graduated with his degree in 1999. Vance

began teaching elementary school, and coaching high school track and cross country teams. In 2003, he was exposed to his first triathlon, and the success has come quickly ever since.

In late 2005, Vance committed fully to his passion of attempting to make the Olympic Games. He has put his teaching career on hold, in order to devote his life to competing at the highest level.

Vance has been to the U.S. Olympic Training Center. In his spare time, he enjoys running his coaching business via the Internet, as well as reading, learning guitar, and playing poker.

11 COMPLETE

From Page 44

2:46:51 and 2:54:25 he registered this year in both races.

Bucher, which won the 2005 PIC Double with compatriot Olivier Marceau, won her second Double after three years. She logged in a total time of 6:38:20, which is 6:01 better from her 2005 record of 6:14:11.

Bucher was the third best among the 11 PIC Double finishers after logging in times of 3:12:46 and 3:25:34 in the 2008 XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman.

Saipan's Eli Torgeson was the second best PIC Double finisher as the

Commonwealth Health Center anesthesiologist tallied 6:33:00, a full 5:20 ahead of Bucher.

Torgeson finished strong in his first XTERRA Saipan Championship with a time of 3:17:11 to become the top amateur finisher that earned him a slot to the 2008 XTERRA World Championship on Oct. 26 in Maui, Hawaii.

He then registered a 3:15:49 time in the Tagaman to finish sixth overall behind the pros and placing fifth in the open division. He was again the top finisher from Saipan earning him a slot, together with female winner Maimi Shimizu, in the 28th Annual Kaike Triathlon on July 15 in Japan.

Mieko Carey, who gave Bucher a

hard time in both races, placed fourth overall in the PIC Double with a combined time of 7:05:29, eclipsing her 2007 record of 7:28:14.

Tinian's Ken Halliday placed fifth with a total time of 7:52:42, while Lewie Tenorio logged in 7:52:54. Nate "The Snakeman" Hawley broke the eight-hour barrier when he tallied 7:57:13 compared to his 2007 time of 8:15:52.

The other PIC Double finishers were Russia's Sergei Makarenko (8:07:24); Australia's Allan Callinson, who is Bucher's trainer, (8:46:02); former Saipan Tribune sports reporter Brad Ruszala (9:54:50); and Hans Dieben of Chula Vista, California (11:22:29).



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	54	13	.806	—
Toronto	35	33	.515	19 1/2
Philadelphia	34	34	.500	20 1/2
New Jersey	29	39	.426	25 1/2
New York	19	48	.284	35

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	45	25	.643	—
Washington	34	33	.507	9 1/2
Atlanta	29	39	.426	15
Charlotte	24	44	.353	20
Miami	12	55	.179	31 1/2

Central Division

x-Detroit	49	19	.721	—
Cleveland	39	30	.565	10 1/2
Chicago	27	40	.403	21 1/2
Indiana	27	41	.397	22
Milwaukee	23	44	.343	25 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	46	21	.687	—
Houston	46	22	.676	1/2
San Antonio	44	23	.657	2
Dallas	44	24	.647	2 1/2

Memphis	16	51	.239	30
---------	----	----	------	----

Northwest Division

Utah	45	24	.652	—
Denver	40	28	.588	4 1/2
Portland	35	33	.515	9 1/2
Minnesota	17	50	.254	27
Seattle	16	52	.235	28 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	46	21	.687	—
Phoenix	46	22	.676	1/2
Golden State	42	25	.627	4
Sacramento	31	36	.463	15
L.A. Clippers	21	46	.313	25

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Toronto 96, Miami 54
Washington 87, Orlando 86
Indiana 102, Charlotte 95
Philadelphia 115, Denver 113
New Jersey 125, Atlanta 117
Cleveland 89, Detroit 73
Minnesota 98, Memphis 94
New Orleans 90, Houston 69
Phoenix 110, Seattle 98
Golden State 116, L.A. Clippers 100

By The Associated Press

KENSUKE

From Page 44

an inexperienced or young swimmer, it is so easy to get LTB. Whenever they swim, they can get it. But it is so hard for an experienced swimmer like Kensuke to get a LTB. His LTB for this event is very respectable and we are proud of him," said Hiro.

The elder Kimura, the head coach of Tsunami Saipan, added their Tokyo trip last weekend was just the beginning and hopes to bring more of his swimmers to off-island events.

"Sending swimmers to such a meet, and making them compete will improve CNMI swimming. I want to take

more young swimmers, not only Kensuke, and participate in this meet next year again."

In all a total of 96 teams and 3,404 swimmers participated in the 2008 Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet.

Before the competition, Kensuke practiced at the Japan National Youth Olympic Center and also did so a day before coming back to the CNMI last Monday. The Kimuras returned to Saipan from their Tokyo trip last Tuesday.

In other news, Tsunami Saipan announced that slots for the April session for beginner Red Cross lessons at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan have all been filled up. The next session of beginner swim lessons is set for the summer.

NMA

From Page 44

and 8:15.

She also won two gold medals in the 2007 McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championship ruling the 800m (3:22.26) and 1,500m (6:33.44) runs.

Race then teamed up with Michaela Grandinetti, Annalis Livingston, and Rachel Kim to give Whispering Palms School the 4x400m relay win with a time of 6:10:37.

Manglona earned the award after winning four gold medals in last year's All Schools Championships. He won the 100m dash (14.98 seconds), 200m run (31.84 seconds), 400m run (1:11.62), and long jump (3.52m).

Ashley Babauta and Angelo Jones topped the 12-and-under division with the former winning short distance running events, while the latter ruled the long distance races.

Serving as highlight of Babauta's 2007 performance was the 100m dash gold in the McDonald's All Schools breezing to a 15.70-second finish.

Jones, meanwhile, won the long distance races in his age division in the McDonald's athletics championships and the 2007 All Schools cross country series.

Reylynn Sapong and Lia Rangamar were named co-athletes in the 14-and-under division, while J.R. Concepcion dominated the boys class.

Sapong and Rangamar were instrumental in leading Hopwood Junior High School to the girls title in the All Schools athletics ruling the running and

field events, while Concepcion won three gold and one silver in last year's track and field meet.

Jacque Wonenberg earned her second major award for 2007 when she was named the NMA girls' 18-and-under Athlete of the Year with Nate Mateo duplicating the feat in the boys division.

Wonenberg earned the recognition after joining several off-island competitions, breaking national records, or establishing personal bests in the process.

Mateo either won or finished second in the middle distance events while also running in the Mariana High School relay teams.

Tyrone Omar and Yvonne Bennett's record-breaking year earned them the open division titles as they broke CNMI national records competing outside the Commonwealth.

The other nominees were Taylor Knecht, Michaela Grandinetti, and Emily Jones (girls); Jordan Butcher, Danny Auther, and Kenyan Schultz (boys) in the 10-and-under. Rachel Abraham and Jellian Majors (girls); Crosby Schultz, Brandon Philips, David Ramon, Michael Mancao, and Byron Ryan (boys) in the 12-and-under; Madison Schultz and Chiang Duenas (girls), and Mike Bondoc (boys) in the 14-and-under; Champ Untalan, Matt Mancao, and Jesus Iguel (boys 18-and-under); and Nick Gross and Dexter Dillay (men's open).

Mamiko Oshima, meanwhile, bested Mieko Carey, Noriko Jim, and Akiko Hagiwara for the roadrunner of the year crown.

Wabol wins Mt. Carmel Golf

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR



Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol successfully defended his Championship Flight title in last Saturday's 6th Annual Mount Carmel Golf Tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The former Oleai Elementary School principal beat a couple of worthy challengers in Joji Taguchi and Adam Hardwicke after Wabol shot a one-over 73.

Taguchi, a teammate of Wabol in the 2003 Suva South Pacific Games CNMI national golf team, tied Refaluwasch Golf Association president Hardwicke with his two-over 74 but edged the chief Public Defender via scorecard tiebreak to take home first runner-up honors.

Wabol pocketed \$450 and won a championship trophy for his performance.

"Conditions were tough. First five holes I had four bogeys and one birdie. The greens were hard and they were not holding. Putting wise it was tough. It was very fast. In fact, I only sank one long putt. The rest I was trying to get my two putt. The good thing about it was even though I struggled I still won," said Wabol.

In other flights, Yasu Irinaka won



Champions and runner-up pose with their trophies after the awards banquet of the 6th Annual Mount Carmel Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. Top right, Championship Flight winner Jess Wabol in a file photo.

A Flight after firing a 78. A shot off Irinaka's pace was John Guerrero with his 79, while third place went to Rudy Sablan.

Lady golfer Leina Kim was without peer in the B Flight, as the islands' No.

1 women's golfer shot an 84 to beat Patrick Guerrero (85) and defending champion and House Speaker Arnold Palacios (88).

Frankie Pangelinan held fort in C Flight with his 90, while two Johns—

Terlaje and Salas wound up second and third with scores of 90 and 91, respectively. Pangelinan edged Terlaje on a scorecard tiebreak.

Nick Sablan, Taguchi and Wabol's teammate in Suva, was tops in the Se-



nior Flight with his 70 net. Former presiding judge Edward Manibusan and Jun Soo Park finished second and third with a 73 and a 75, respectively.

Sherlyn Jones ruled the Ladies Flight with her net 70, followed by Terry Attao (71) and Noriko Togawa (74).

Nick Sablan also won the closest to the pin competition.

For more information about the 6th Annual Mount Carmel Golf Tournament results, call Louise Concepcion at 235-1285 and Margaret Delacruz at 235-1251.

The tournament was sponsored by the Mount Carmel School Board of Directors.

Nono Bostre best in March

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR



Nono Bostre won the March Ace of the Month Tournament of Fil-

Taga Golf Association last Sunday, March 16, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort east course.

This after Bostre shot net 69, which tied him with February winner and Senate President Pete P. Reyes on top of the leaderboard.

And since Reyes already won last month, the March championship was automatically handed to Bostre as Fil-Taga rules state that monthly winners can only win once during a 12-month cycle.

Bostre got to the top after his 30 handicap helped him trim the monster 99 gross he shot last weekend at the Kagman golf venue. Reyes, meanwhile, had a better day on the greens with a gross of 80 that went well with his 11 handicap.

Freddie Cataluna closed out the Top 3 with his net 70—built around a gross of 81 and a handicap of 11.

Adony Matutino (net 71), Rey Ferraz (74), James Lin (76), Butch Sigua (76), Fr. Manny Corcuera (78), Nestor Siruelo (78), Leo Ganacias (81), and reigning Golfer of the year Ralph Yumul (83) also took part in the March Ace.

Fil-Taga's officers are led by president Jun Dela Cruz Jr., vice-president Jhun

Calma, secretary Manny Po, and treasurer Guban.

Its board of directors is made up of Fr. Manny Corcuera, Miguel Cruz, Jr., Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batalones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the \$35 to \$40 price range for most tournaments.

Norita aces SGA's March tourney

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



From the baseball field and into the fairways.

Ned Norita showed everyone that he is not only good at whacking home runs but can also sinking the golf ball after winning the Saipan Golfers Association's March Ace of the Month last March 16 at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

Norita, who is a police officer at the Department of Public Safety, won his second straight SGA Ace monthly title after also claiming the February crown.

He fired a personal best net 67 to beat 19 other golfers that joined in the one-day tournament held at Saipan's northern most golf course. The 9-handicapper shot an even-par 36 in the front nine and a 40 at the back.

Norita, who is comfortable hitting long drives, secured three birdies. Jess Castro also had three birdies, which is the most scored among the golfers that played last Sunday.

Norita also missed an eagle putt at hole No. 12 to join three other golfers that failed to sink their putts at the same hole.

Jung Eun Taeck had a gross

score of 78 to place second, while former Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Juan L. Babauta finished third with a low net of 69.

Former Superior Court associate justice Ed Manibusan, who shot a net 71, won the closest to the pin awards in holes No. 6 and 8, while new SGA member Ron Hodges and Taeck duplicated the feat in holes No. 12 and 16.

SGA officials also reminded its members that next month's tournament is set on April 6 at Coral Ocean Point. Tee time will be announced at a later date.



Norita

Kagman to hold 3-on-3 caging

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Kagman's youth are invited to join the Kagman 3-on-3 Street Basketball Tournament, which will be held on March 24 and 25, Monday and Tuesday, at Chacha Oceanview Junior High School.

The tournament, which will run from 3pm to 9pm on both days, is exclusive for Kagman youths between 14 to 18 years old. The entrance fee is \$5 per player or \$25 for a team with five players.

The number of teams will be limited to a maximum of 16 and a minimum of 12 in the two-day tournament, which follows a double-elimination round format.

Each team, which will be given one 30-second timeout and is allowed to have a maximum of five players. Games will have 12 minutes each where the first team to reach 15 points wins.

If the time runs out, the team with the highest score wins. A three-minute overtime will take place in case of ties and a free throw will decide the game in case of a sudden death.



JON PEREZ

Action in the NYBA 16-and-under basketball tournament returns on March 26 at the Garapan basketball court.

The 3-on-3 basketball tournament is organized by the Northern Youth Basketball Association, which is also advising interested teams to prepare for the opening of the 2008 season of the NYBA 16-and-under league.

Titles in Division I (12-and-under), Division II (14-and-under), and Division III (16-and-under) will be contested in the league, which opens on March 26 at 5:30pm at the Garapan

basketball court across from Bank of Guam.

Games will be played every Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays with Saturdays reserved for make-up matches. Two games will be played every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with the second game scheduled at 7pm.

A maximum of 14 teams per division are allowed to join in the league, which will have a \$100 entrance fee per squad.

Wabol wins Mt. Carmel Golf

Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol successfully defended his Championship Flight title in last Saturday's 6th Annual Mount Carmel Golf Tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.



43

Saipan Tribune Sports



Wells scores 25 to help Hornets beat Rockets

Former Houston swingman Bonzi Wells helped New Orleans hand the Rockets their second straight loss after a 22-game winning streak, scoring 20 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter in the Hornets' 90-69 victory Wednesday night.

39

44 FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kensuke 21st out of 103 in Tokyo meet

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura almost made it into the Top 20 of his age group in last weekend's 2008 Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet, finishing 21st out of 103 in the competition held at the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium in Tokyo, Japan.

Kimura gave a good account of himself swimming against the world's best 11-year-olds though, finishing the 50m breaststroke in 40.37, a lifetime best.

According to his coach and father,



Hiro Kimura, swimmers who were faster than 38.87 advanced to the final eight and the younger Kimura failed to advance by a mere 1.5 seconds.

"It was so tough a fight that the Top 10 swimmers were separated by less than a second. The final seeding places changed for five or six swimmers by less than 0.5 seconds. It was a very high-level competition. I had great experience with many fast swimmers of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura poses at the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium in Tokyo, Japan, site of last weekend's 2008 Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet.

my same age there," said Kensuke.

While the Kimuras would've wanted a finals stint for Kensuke, gaining experience and improving his times were

still good enough.

"Of course, he got a lifetime best time, but it wasn't good enough. For

See KENSUKE on Page 42



JON PEREZ

The 11 finishers of the 2008 Pacific Islands Club Double pose for photographers during last weekend's award ceremony in the 19th Tagaman Triathlon at the PIC beach side.

11 complete PIC Double

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Aussie Andrew Noble and Renata Bucher of Switzerland earned another return trip to Saipan next year after winning the Pacific Islands Club Double, leading nine others that completed the race.

The PIC Double is awarded to triathletes that had the best combined times in the XTERRA Saipan Championship and the Tagaman Triathlon, held one week apart.

Noble and Bucher claimed their second PIC Double and at the same time collected close to \$5,000 in cash

and other prizes. They both earned a free return trip to Saipan next year to earn a chance of defending their XTERRA and Tagaman titles, while at the same time winning a seven-day free stay and meals at PIC.

It was Noble's second straight PIC Double title after winning it last year with United Kingdom's Julie Dibens. Noble's combined time of five hours, 41 minutes, and 16 seconds was slower than his last year's record of 5:34:46.

In last year's XTERRA and Tagaman, Noble logged in times of 2:39:56 and 2:54:50 compared to the

See 11 COMPLETE on Page 42



Frustrating Tagaman stint for Vance

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jim Vance had a frustrating campaign in the 19th Tagaman Triathlon as an injury forced him to pull out from last Saturday's race.

The American former XTERRA Amateur World champion felt his hamstring and calf muscles tighten as he made a loop in the 2-kilometer

Jim Vance runs toward the finish line of the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship last March 8 at American Memorial Park.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

swim leg of the Tagaman.

He managed to finish the swim but decided not to go on with the race heading into the bike transition area. "I was unable to finish the Tagaman. Everything was going well, I was even third out of the water after one lap."

"Running around the cones, I felt my left calf and hamstring tightened. I knew right then that the race would be short for me," said Vance, who still managed to finish the swim leg in 29 minutes and 58 seconds, second only to eventual

winner Andrew Noble of Australia's time of 28:29, among full Tagaman participants.

"It was a lonely swim for me since I came to terms with the reality of my situation."

He said that his status for Ironman Arizona, which was four weeks away is still questionable and there is a chance that he might not join to allow his injury to heal. "It will be difficult to heal and train properly. There is little time to heal and still be ready for Ironman Arizona."

See FRUSTRATING on Page 42



NMA names '07 Athletes of the Year

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Northern Marianas Athletics named its 2007 Athletes of the Year in Wednesday night's ceremony held at the pavilion across from the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Leading the list of winners were youth runners Gabi Race and Jordan Manglona in the 10-and-under division, while Ashley

Athletes that excelled in last season's athletics events pose for a group shot in Wednesday night's Northern Marianas Athletics banquet held at the pavilion across from the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

JON PEREZ

Babauta and Angelo Jones won in the Under-12 age group.

Race dominated the 9-10 division in the 2007 Cross Country Races and the 2007 All Schools Cross Country Championship with times of 8:01

See NMA on Page 42

